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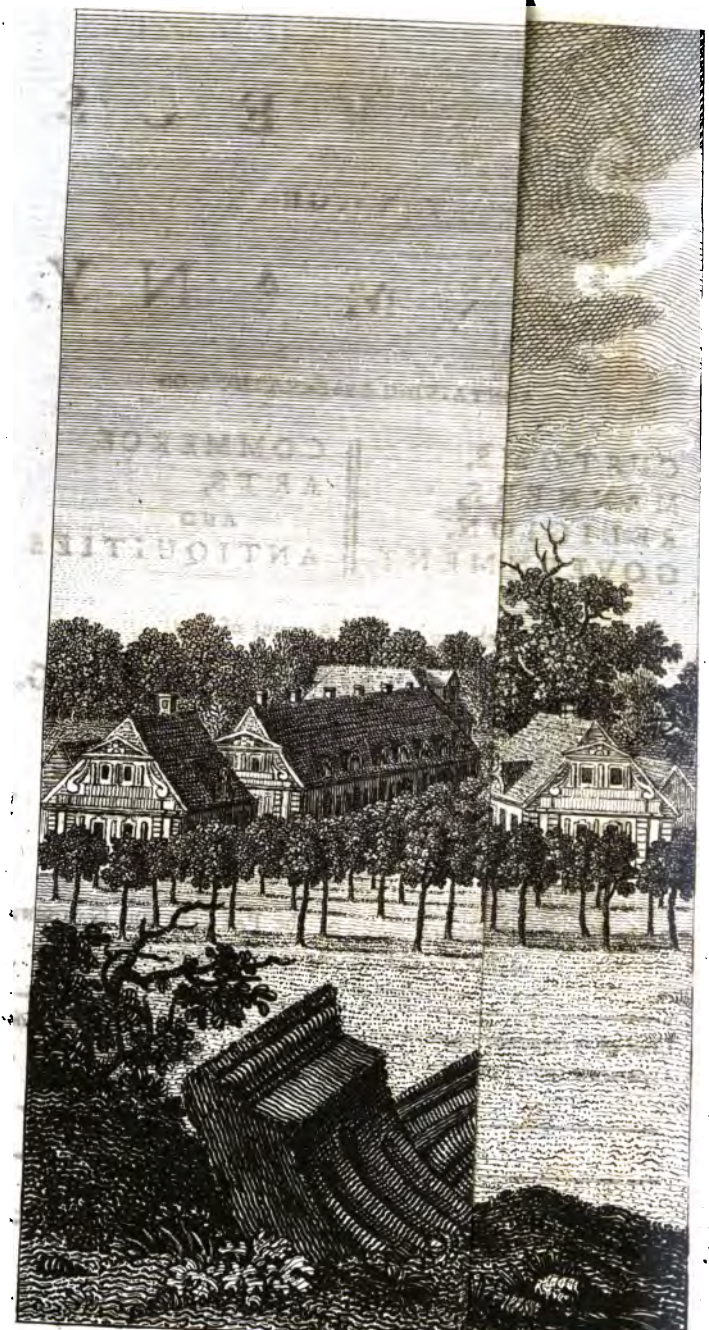

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The Front.

TRAVELS

THROUGH

GERMANY.

CONTAINING OBSERVATIONS ON

CUSTOMS,	COMMERCE,
MANNERS,	ARTS,
RELIGION,	AND
GOVERNMENT,	ANTIQUITIES.

With a particular Account of the

COURTS OF MECKLENBURG.

In a Series of LETTERS to a Friend,

By THOMAS NUGENT, LL.D.
FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

Embellished with elegant CUTS of the PALACES and GARDENS of the DUKES of MECKLENBURG.

Illud eſt in cognitione regionum ſalubre ac fructiferum omnis te exempli documenta intueri; indeque tibi, tuæque patriæ, quod imitare capias.

TIT. LIV. init.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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LETTER XIII.

Strelitz, October 25, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I Confeſs it gives me a ſingular pleaſure to find, that my account of the duchy of Mecklenburg has afforded you any ſatisfaction; and that you think it a ſubject worthy of the public attention. Juſtly have you obſerved that this country being in a nook of Germany, and no thoroughfare to any of the great electorates, is the reaſon why it has hitherto eſcaped the notice of moſt travellers. This, however, is a circumſtance that may render my correſpondence the more entertaining, from the novelty of the ſubject, which ſcarce has been attempted by any Engliſh writer. As

to what you mention concerning the natural hiſtory of Mecklenburg, it is a vaſt undertaking, far beyond my abilities; neither have I time, or materials ſufficient, to execute the taſk in ſuch a manner as might entitle me to your approbation: yet I have not neglected to make every enquiry among the learned, which may enable me to give you ſome idea of the natural and civil hiſtory, as well as of the government and internal œconomy, of this country: but, before I proceed, it will be proper to acquaint you with a few occurrences, which have enlivened this ſcene, and rendered my ſtay at Strelitz infinitely agreeable.

Their highneſſes had waited ſome time in anxious expectation of the news of the queen's delivery, when a meſſenger arrived the 11th at noon, with the joyful tidings, that her majeſty had been brought to-bed of a princeſs on the 29th of September, at eight o'clock in the morning. The meſſenger's name is Mann, a young fellow; he left Harwich the 2d of October, had been four days at ſea, and came from Helvoet in ſix days and a half. The happy intelligence was proclaimed at one, by firing off the cannon before the park. As ſoon as the duke and his ſiſter appeared in the preſence-chamber, all the gentlemen and ladies at court went in to pay their compliments of congratulation. Now joy was in every face without a cloud, and the happy

by day, reſigned to feſtivity. The fortunate event was the ſubject of diſcourſe during the whole time of repaſt, and the company, eſpecially the ladies, all ſeemed pleaſed that her majeſty, this once, had been bleſſed with a princeſs. The marſhal of the court notified to us that *Te Deum* would be ſung the next day, and the evening was to conclude with a ball. After dinner I went down with baron Dewitz to ſpeak with the meſſenger, and was glad to find that his majeſty had ſo wiſely prohibited, in this time of ſcarcity, the farther exportation of corn. Baron Dewitz made him a preſent in the duke's name, and M. Reinhard and I went to walk in the garden. Thence we adjourned to Dr. Hempel's, where that gentleman's agreeable daughter, after treating us with ſweetmeats and champagne, amuſed us ſome time with vocal and inſtrumental muſic. At ſix we went to court, where we found the company aſſembled in the grand ſaloon. The duke and his ſiſter came in ſoon after, and his highneſs was dreſſed in ſilver tiſſue. The band of muſic is very good, and the two Italian ſingers, Mrs. Coghoen and Mrs. Sonnen, perform extremely well. The duke ſeeing me very attentive to Mrs. Coghoen, aſked me how I liked her ſinging; and I expreſſed that approbation which ſhe ſo juſtly deſerves. There were ſeveral card-tables; but it is a pity there ſhould be any ſuch diverſion at a

concert: for it is impoſſible to give due attention either to the muſic or to one's game, eſpecially at whiſt. This the duke himſelf obſerved to me; but he does not chuſe to alter an old eſtabliſhed cuſtom. The princeſs ſtayed to ſupper, and at the uſual hour the company retired.

On the morrow, which was Sunday, after breakfaſting with baron Dewitz and his lady, I went to chapel between ten and eleven, where I found the duke with all the ladies and officers of the court in their gala dreſſes. Their cloaths indeed were very rich, glittering with gold lace and embroidery. The duke was in a tribune by himſelf fronting the altar, dreſſed in crimſon velvet, white ſtockings, and the order of the garter. The weather being ſomewhat ſharp the princeſs did not come to chapel, but had prayers in her own apartment. The marſhal of the court placed me next to himſelf in the ſame gallery with baron Dewitz and the other officers belonging to the court. The ladies were in the oppoſite gallery by themſelves. Captain Norman lent me one of their common-prayer books, wherein they have a great number of hymns, and the Pſalms in verſe. The ſervice was performed with the utmoſt regularity and devotion, the muſic was heavenly, and the ſwelling organ filled the riſing ſoul. I may truly affirm, that never

never in my life did I ſee a congregation behave with more fervency and devotion. After prayers the ſuperintendant Maſch, who had officiated all the time, preached an excellent ſermon, which laſted above an hour. There were ſeveral communicants, and among the reſt a good many ſoldiers, whoſe edifying behaviour I could not but admire. I obſerved a lady at the ſacrament, dreſſed much like a nun, all in black, except her head, over which ſhe wore a white veil, with a piece of black crape on her forehead. This lady I heard was madam de Chaſſau, then in deep mourning for her huſband lately deceaſed. She is ſiſter to baron Boehmen, and her huſband was brother to M. de Chaſſau, commandant of Lubeck. The ſervice concluded with *Te Deum*, which was ſung to the ſound of hautboys, kettle-drums, and trumpets. After the trumpet had ſummoned us to dinner, the duke and the princeſs made their appearance, and the company, which was very brilliant, took their places. All the nobility of the town were invited. It is impoſſible to expreſs the joy ſhining in their countenances, or the innocent hilarity of their converſation; I leave it to your own imagination to form an idea of it. The entertainment was elegant and ſplendid, conſiſting of the richeſt wines, and choiceſt dainties, that could be contrived to pleaſe the palate. During our repaſt, the duke ſtood

up to drink ſeveral healths, as thoſe of the king and queen of Great Britain, the new-born princeſs, &c. the company likewiſe riſing; and every toaſt was accompanied with the clangor of trumpets and a diſcharge of cannon. During the whole time we were at dinner, the band of muſic played in the gallery. At coffee, M. Krohne the intelligencer came up to me, and ſhewed me a copy of Latin verſes, which he ſaid he had written extempore on the joyful occaſion. I gave them with his permiſſion to baron Dewitz, who preſented them to the duke; and after ſome little merriment, the duke in his good humour was pleaſed to reward M. Krohne by an augmentation of his ſalary from 350 to 400 dollars. The generoſity of the prince was more incited by the occaſion than by the poetry, as you may eaſily judge from the following copy.

EXTEMPORANEUM.

Ad Auguſtiſſimam ANGLIÆ *Reginam.*

Poſteaquam CAROLUS *Primus regnaverat* Anglos,
Filia non nata eſt patre regia ſceptra tenente.
Quarta tibi proles jam non eſt maſcula nata.
Arridet Regina tuo cur Filia Regi?
Haud ſatis eſt ut des orbi Regina Monarchas,
Reginas pietate pares Matri quoque profers.

Ad

Ad Ducem.

Ecce præit Regina tibi; Dux æmule fac ſic
Quartum ad hoc exemplum, tua tota Megapolis orat.

Neoſtrelitziæ, JOHAN. WIL. DE KROHNE.
11ma *Oct.* 1766.

Dum hora duodecima Pomeridiana, Curſor Londinenſis de Regina 29 Septembris feliciſſime eniſa ſereniſſimo Duci Megapolitano notitiam attulit gratiſſimam.

What think you of thoſe verſes? I fancy you will not ſay of them what Scaliger did of ſome lines of Horace *, *Quarum ſimiles malim compoſuiſſe, quam eſſe totius Tarraconenſis rex.*

After dinner I adjourned with M. Reinhard to Dr. Hempel's, where we paſſed the time agreeably till ſix, when we went to court. The company was very brilliant; the gentlemen were in ſilk dominos, but no maſks. The duke and the princeſs opened the ball with a minuet, which they danced to admiration. It is impoſſible to have a more graceful attitude than the princeſs, or a more noble air and better ſtep than his highneſs. The princeſs did not join in the country dances, on account of her health: but the duke danced the whole evening, as well minuets as country dances; and he is certainly very fond of this diverſion.

* *Quem tu Melpomene ſemel, &c.* Od. III. l. 4. and *Donec gratus eram tibi, &c.* Od. IX. l. 3.

At the deſire of ſome ladies, I played a game or two at whiſt; but my attention to the muſic and dancing prevented me from minding my game. Here I made acquaintance with Mademoiſelle Calenburg, a lady endowed with wit and good ſenſe. She is niece of madam de Voſs, and ſeems to be between thirty and forty. No lady can be better tempered, or behave with more politeneſs. She has an uncommon ſhare of vivacity, and repartee at command; ſo that it was impoſſible not to be delighted with her ſprightly converſation. At nine we went to ſupper. The princeſs as well as baron Dewitz and his lady ſtayed, and the evening was crowned with the higheſt mirth and joy.

A few days after this happy news, baron Pleſſe, captain in the duke of Brunſwick's guards, came to pay a viſit to his younger brother captain Pleſſe, equerry to the duke of Strelitz. He was accompanied by two young Britiſh officers, captain Graham and captain Anſtruther, who, upon the concluſion of the peace, thought it conducive to their improvement to go abroad, and had been ſome time at the court of Brunſwick. They are very agreeable gentlemen, ſenſible and polite, ſuch as do honour to their country. The duke and his ſiſter received them with that affability which characteriſtizes all their actions; and no pains are ſpared to procure them amuſement.

The

The birth of the young princeſs being made public, the ſtates of the province held an aſſembly, in order to depute a certain number of their body, to congratulate his highneſs on ſo happy an event. The perſons choſen for this commiſſion, were the barons Warburg and Bredow, and captain Keyſerling for the nobility, and the burgomaſters Schroder and Wulflelff for the burghers. They came to lodge in the ſame inn with me at M. Strubing's. Three of theſe gentlemen I had known already, viz. baron Warburg, captain Keyſerling, and M. Schroder. They had heard of my being in the ſame houſe; and M. Schroder inſiſted on my ſpending the evening with them. I was obliged to comply, and thought myſelf very happy in their company. M. Schroder introduced me to baron Bredow, of whom I had heard much talk. This gentleman is of a gigantic ſtature, has a handſome face, and freſh complexion: his diſpoſition is remarkably chearful; he is ſupremely fond of good cheer and jollity, and never more happy than when he entertains his friends. His ſeat lies about ſix miles from hence, at a very pleaſant village on the Tollenſee, known by the name of Prilwitz, to which he has given me a very kind invitation.

The next morning I breakfaſted with the deputies, and went afterwards with them in their coach to court, where they were to addreſs

dreſs his highneſs upon the joyful occaſion. I ſaw baron Dewitz before they entered the preſence-chamber, and obſerved to him, that I believed baron Warburg, having ſo ſtrong a voice, would make a very loud harangue. Baron Dewitz ſmiled, and told me I need not be afraid of his voice; for however loud it may be at his own table, or among his equals, it would be lowered in the duke's preſence. And indeed ſo I found it. The deputies entered the duke's apartment between twelve and one; his highneſs received them ſtanding; they bowed very profoundly, and baron Warburg ſpoke ſo low, that though I was in the room, I could not rightly diſtinguiſh what he ſaid. I only heard him now and then mention the queen's name with profound reverence. The addreſs was ſhort, and the duke's anſwer alſo conciſe. He thanked them for their kind addreſs, and aſſured them of his protection. They dined afterwards at court; but I obſerved that none of them ſat near the duke; and as the princeſs did not come that day to dinner, his highneſs had Mademoiſelle Dewitz on his right, and madam Koſboth on his left. The entertainment was ſplendid as uſual, and every thing paſſed with great decorum. The deputies were all together; I ſat next baron Warburg, and even here he ſeemed afraid to raiſe his voice; ſo that their converſation paſſed in whiſpers. After dinner captain Pleſſe invited the

the deputies, the Britiſh officers, and myſelf, to paſs the afternoon at his houſe. Accordingly we went, and were very merry over punch and wine, when in the midſt of our entertainment the duke came in and agreeably ſurprized us. The band of muſic appeared at the door by his highneſs's order, and entertained our ears with the ſweeteſt harmony, while our palates were feaſted with exquiſite liquors. The duke was in a very good humour, and propoſed a game of cards, for he does not like drinking. This continued till ſix, when we adjourned to court, where the deputies were entertained with a ball. Part of the company went to dancing, and others to cards. I had the honour of being of a party at whiſt with her highneſs the princeſs, madam Winnemer, and baron Dewitz. Her highneſs plays exceeding well, and ſo do the others too; but for my part, beſides being but an indifferent player, my attention was diverted by the dancing and the muſic. It was my lot to be partner with baron Dewitz, who finding me ſo inattentive to my game, rated me ſoundly. The princeſs ſmiled, and with great good-nature ſaid, *il ne faut pas le gronder tant*. And, indeed, the more he reprimanded, the more I was confounded; ſo that I was heartily glad, when the ſound of the trumpet put an end to our game. During our repaſt we were all very chearful, and at the uſual hour

we

we retired. I went home with the deputies, and ſat with them in their apartment, chatting for above an hour; then took my final leave of them, as they were to ſet out early the next morning for New Brandenburg, and I for Old Strelitz.

The preceding day I had received a letter from my friend M. Piſtorius, mentioning that he ſhould be glad to meet me at Old Strelitz. I acquainted M. Maſch the ſuperintendant, with this news; and as he had a little buſineſs in that town with M. Eggers, the paſtor, he ſaid he would accompany me thither. He ordered his chariot in the morning, for his brother-in-law, a clergyman, and me; but he choſe to ride himſelf on horſeback. His brother-in-law is a very agreeable looking gentleman, lately recovered from a fit of illneſs. The ſuperintendant rode a mettleſome horſe, which however he managed very cavalierly, and wore a brown coat with a jockey-cap. The diſtance is but two miles, and the road pretty good; ſo that we were not long on our journey. We lighted at M. Eggers, who received us very cordially. Advice was given of our arrival to M. Piſtorius, who came directly to M. Egger's, and we embraced one another with great tenderneſs. After we had drunk coffee, M. Piſtorius and I went to M. Tangatz, burgomaſter of the town, to pay our compliments, and deſire a ſight of the original deed

of the foundation of Old Strelitz, which was in his poſſeſſion. M. Tangatz is a well-built gentleman, about fifty, of a middling ſtature, brown complexion, and pitted pretty much with the ſmall-pox. He is endowed with good ſenſe, a generous diſpoſition, and a great ſhare of integrity. We eaſily obtained what we wanted; and it ſeemed to be a higher pleaſure for him to grant, than for us to receive the favour. It is a deed of privileges, granted by the founders, Otho and Ulric, counts of Furſtenberg, anceſtors of baron Dewitz. The language is Low-dutch, and it is dated on St. Barbara's day, A. D. 1349. The burgomaſter gave me a copy of it, which M. Piſtorius and I collated with the original. The ſame gentleman promiſed me alſo an account of the cavalcade, that attended her majeſty from hence, when ſhe ſet out for England. I thanked him very kindly, and told him I ſhould be obliged to him for any papers concerning her majeſty, or her auguſt family.

We went afterwards to take a view of the town, of the ruins of the old palace burnt down in 1712, and of the Jewiſh ſynagogue; of all which I gave you an account in a former letter. When we had finiſhed our perambulation, we returned to M. Eggers, who had provided us a handſome dinner. M. Eggers is a well-looking gentleman, good-natured and complaiſant, and united in great friend-

ſhip

ſhip with the ſuperintendant. He is a batchelor, but has a ſiſter that lives with him, a very agreeable gentlewoman. After dinner he played on the ſpinnet, at which he is no bad hand. Night drawing near, we were preparing to depart, when M. Piſtorius acquainted me, that he had received a letter from a friend of his in the electorate of Brandenburg, who was deſirous of having an interview with me. This is the learned and rev. M. Buckholtz, paſtor of the church of Lychen, in the Ucker Marche, a gentleman who has acquired great reputation by an Abridgment of the Hiſtory of Mecklenburg, and a much greater by his Hiſtory of the marquiſate of Brandenburg. The abridgment of the Hiſtory of Mecklenburg I have by me, and it is a valuable compoſition, being very exact as to facts and chronology. The Hiſtory of Brandenburg I have not ſeen; but M. Piſtorius aſſures me it is in high eſteem, and that the author has had a letter of thanks for it from the king of Pruſſia, in that prince's own handwriting. I told M. Piſtorius that I ſhould be proud of the honour of ſeeing M. Buckholtz; and whenever he pleaſed to give me notice, I ſhould be ſure to meet him. We parted, and the ſuperintendant, his brother, and I returned to New Strelitz. I ſupped that evening at court, and the duke was ſo good as to invite me the next morning to breakfaſt with him, in order to ſhew me his cabinet of curioſities. I waited

I waited on the duke at nine in the morning, and was received in a moſt gracious manner. His highneſs was ſtanding in his morning dreſs, a mantle of blue velvet edged with gold lace. The gentleman in waiting immediately brought in coffee and bread and butter, on which we breakfaſted.

The cabinet is pretty large, and richly furniſhed with paintings. Toys and curioſities of all ſorts were diſplayed in abundance, ſtones, gems, cameos, and intaglios; but what I moſt admired, were two fine vaſes painted by the great Raphael. The colouring is very good, but the figures of Charity, Juſtice, &c. are exquiſitely beautiful. On this occaſion his highneſs alſo ſhewed me a gold-hilted ſword ſet with diamonds, which her majeſty ſent him over as a preſent. About ten the duke aſked me to take an airing with him in his chariot: to which, as you may imagine, I readily conſented. The coachman was ordered to drive to Torwitz, a little village on the other ſide of the lake of Strelitz, where his highneſs has a pretty ſummer-houſe.

The road is ſandy, but pleaſant enough when you approach the lake. The duke would not ſuffer me to ſit uncovered, but made uſe of his favourite ſaying, "I hate conſtraint "myſelf, and therefore conſtrain no man." It is impoſſible to expreſs the good-nature and affability of this amiable prince. He told me that he is naturally fond of company,

pany, the very reverſe of his couſin the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin. Concerning baron Dewitz he mentioned ſeveral particulars very entertaining, which happened during their travels in France and Italy. In leſs than half an hour we reached Torwitz, where we lighted at the ſummer-houſe. It is very pleaſantly ſeated near the ſide of the lake, and ſerves for drinking tea or coffee in a ſummer afternoon. There is a pretty large room, which has been lately new floored, where his highneſs ſometimes has company to dance. The building is very ſimple, void of all decoration. As there was no fire, the duke did not think it prudent to ſtay there long; ſo that we reached the palace again by twelve o'clock. Before dinner a nobleman was introduced to his highneſs, viz. count Baſſewitz, a relation of the miniſter of that name at the court of the duke of Schwerin, and lately come from Vienna. He is a tall portly man, of a ſwarthy complexion, and auſtere countenance. By his looks I ſhould apprehend him to be between fifty and ſixty. He is a man of very good parts, but unſteady. For though he has been in different employs at ſeveral courts of Germany, as at Dreſden, Bareith, &c. he never continued long in a place; and lately he ſollicited to be a member of the Aulic council of Vienna, but did not ſucceed. Diſappointed and chagrined

grined he is going now to live at Roſtock, where he has a good houſe and eſtate. I ſat very near this nobleman at table, and had the pleaſure of enjoying a good deal of his converſation. I obſerved that the ladies of honour all wear the duke's picture in miniature hanging at their breaſts. While we were at table the duke ſent one of the pages, to ſhew me a gold ſnuff-box with his ſiſter's picture ſet in diamonds. It is extremely rich and of elegant workmanſhip, ſo that I could not help paying it the compliment it deſerved. A good part of the afternoon I ſpent at baron Dewitz's, with the two Britiſh officers, whom the baron had invited to drink a glaſs of Champagne; but he appointed me to a very hard office, viz. to act as his deputy in doing the honours of the glaſs; for his conſtitution will not permit him to deviate from the ſtricteſt regularity. At the uſual time we went to court, and I had the honour of playing with his highneſs, captain Anſtruther, and madam Koſboth. In the midſt of our game the duke gave us ſome-plumb cake, which was ſome of the beſt I ever taſted. Between ten and eleven we retired, and count Baſſewitz and I lodging in the ſame inn, went home in the ſame coach. I ſat with him a good while after we got home, and had an opportunity of learning from a man of his experience a great many curious anecdotes.

Early the next morning I received a packet from burgomaſter Tangatz, with the following letter, and the annexed papers, which I have thought proper to ſend you, tranſlated into Engliſh.

" SIR,

" ALLOW me the honour of ſending " you an authentic account of the triumphal " arch which was erected in our Town-field, on " occaſion of her majeſty the queen of Eng- " land's leaving our country, where ſtreams of " tears flowed, both from joy and grief, for the " ſame object. Twelve children, daughters of " creditable burghers, under my direction, " joined in the ſolemnity, and poured forth " their fervent wiſhes to the queen; and, with " the higheſt pleaſure, we ſee nearly all the " petitions of theſe twelve innocents accom- " pliſhed. The gracious Ruler of the earth " and ſea has conducted her ſafe to her " royal conſort's arms; and the heart of the " king rejoices; his people are charmed with " her virtues and amiable qualities; heaven has " likewiſe beſtowed four bleſſings on the royal " line, and may the leaves of the branches of " their poſterity flouriſh to the end of time. " You will likewiſe permit me to add, that the " emblem of both worlds in the front of the " triumphal arch, is intended to diſplay the " great ſucceſſes which the Engliſh nation, un-

" der

" der Divine Providence, obtained in the laſt " war by their ſingular conduct and bravery, " ſo that the luſtre of its reputation ſhines with " ſuch glory in all the four parts of the world; " enabling his Britannic majeſty to make good " the wiſhes of the twelve children, and turn " the ravages of war into the enjoyments of " peace.

" The inſcription on the hinder part of the " triumphal arch alludes to the demiſe of the " ducheſs-mother, who died ſoon after general " Græme demanded the princeſs in marriage, " and conſequently did not live to be a wit- " neſs of her daughter's happineſs.

" Worthy ſir, I from my heart congratulate " myſelf on the honour of being known to " you, and intreat that you will be pleaſed " to entertain a gracious remembrance of me " and my twelve little damſels. I pray God " preſerve you in health and happineſs, that " you may return ſafe to your own country. " I am, with an unalterable regard,

" Sir, Your moſt oblig'd and

Strelitz, Oct. 16. 1766. " Devoted ſervant.

" Did circumſtances permit, I ſhould ſtrive " hard for an opportunity of waiting on you " in perſon. *Interea vivat & floreat filia Regia* " Anglicana *proxime nata! vivat!*

" *Uti ſupra,*

" J. TANGATZ."

Account of the TRIUMPHAL ARCH and CAVALCADE, in honour of her Majeſty's departure from Strelitz.

THE town of Old Strelitz was deſirous of expreſſing its regard to the illuſtrious princeſs CHARLOTTA SOPHIA, born ducheſs of Mecklenburg Strelitz, on her eſpouſals to his Majeſty GEORGE III. king of Great Britain, and of wiſhing her a happy voyage to England, at her ſetting out from the bounds of its territory. On the 17th of Auguſt, 1761, was erected in a plain a triumphal arch thirty-two feet in height, with two pillars in front; and cloſe to it was a platform of 500 paces, on which were drawn up the three companies of the town militia under arms, and their colours flying. On each ſide of the front of the triumphal arch were two green bowers, and a tent, with variety of refreſhments for the ſpectators; of whom there was a prodigious number from the towns in the neighbourhood, ſo that they covered the heights near the triumphal arch. The multitudes of perſons, carriages and horſes, formed a moſt chearful proſpect, and among the ſpectators were the worthy magiſtrates of New Strelitz.

The triumphal arch was decorated with natural foliage and feſtoons, and over it two terreſtrial globes in the geographical diviſions, viz. in the firſt Europe, Aſia, and Africa, and in the other

America. Great-Britain and Ireland were incircled with a wreath of laurel. In Europe, was the Elbe with the Havel running into it, and at the ſource of the latter, Mirow, as the birth-place of the Royal Bride: in Aſia, the river Ganges, with its many mouths, the province of Coromandel and Pondicherry: in Africa, the Senegal, and at its iſſue Fort Lewis: in America, the river St. Laurence with Quebec, likewiſe the Miſſiſippi: in the Leeward and Windward Iſlands, Mariegalante, Guadaloupe, and Dominica, all marked in capital letters, as having been reduced by the Britiſh fleet. The two globes were ſurmounted with the arms of Great Britain and Mecklenburg joined. On the backpart of the triumphal arch were repreſented Autumn and Spring, in their attributes of ripe fruits and flowers, with an inſcription to the following effect.

Pomona ſoon ſucceeds to Flora,
And the bridal chamber ſuperſedes the grave.

On each ſide, within the triumphal arch, ſtood ſix reputable townſmen's daughters, between eleven and twelve years of age, in white jackets-and-petticoats, with light-blue ribbons, and their hair dreſſed in natural flowers. Each had in her hand a wreath of myrtle ſomething above the bigneſs of a crown, thus waiting the princeſs's coming.

On the ſkirt of our field towards New Strelitz ſtood a captain of our town horſe, in a blue uniform, with ſixteen troopers, in order to join the cavalcade attending on her royal highneſs, and conduct them to the above-mentioned platform.

This illuſtrious proceſſion was headed by marſhal Zeſterfleth, with two running footmen: then came in coaches and ſix our beloved ſovereign the duke, with his brother prince Charles, attended by ſeveral running footmen, and a body of horſe-guards; and as they paſſed through the triumphal arch, the burghers ſaluted them with their arms, colours, and muſic.

After the march of the horſe came the royal bride herſelf, in a coach of ſtate drawn by ſix horſes, the princeſs her ſiſter ſitting on her left hand, and in the front of the coach the counteſs Cocceius, ſpouſe to the nobleman of that name, the eminent lord chancellor of Pruſſia. Her royal highneſs was pleaſed to ſtop under the triumphal arch; and, after an addreſs delivered by burgomaſter Tangatz, in the name of the corporation and citizens, condeſcended, with the moſt endearing complacency, to hear the children repeat their congratulatory verſes; after which, with a graceful reſpect and ſprightlineſs, they threw their myrtle wreaths to her highneſs into the coach. She expreſſed her ſatisfaction in thoſe gracious terms which were

ever

ever natural to her, and by which, in her tender years, ſhe conciliated the unalterable love and eſteem of all ranks.

After her royal highneſs immediately followed a party of twelve of the horſe-guards, an empty ſtate coach and ſix, the earl of Harcourt with his ſon likewiſe in a coach and ſix, and who was obſerved to view with ſenſible pleaſure both the emblem over the triumphal arch, and the twelve children who had acquitted themſelves ſo handſomely, and gave each of them a ducat; after the earl came Mr. counſellor Hardenburg from Hanover: the cavalcade was cloſed by near thirty coaches, and every thing paſſed ſuitably to the joyful occaſion.

ADDRESS of the Burgomaſters, Magiſtrates, and Citizens of STRELITZ to her Royal Highneſs the moſt illuſtrious Princeſs SOPHIA CHARLOTTA, Ducheſs of Mecklenburg, Princeſs of Wenden, Schwerin, and Ratzeburgh, and Counteſs of Schwerin, and the countries of Roſtock and Stargard, on her leaving the territories of the ſaid city, in her way to England, as the Royal Bride of his moſt potent and moſt illuſtrious Majeſty GEORGE III. King of Great Britain, &c. &c.

ILLUSTRIOUS Ducheſs, moſt gracious Princeſs and Lady, your Royal Highneſs is at preſent leaving that country whoſe happineſs

it has hitherto been to admire in you the model of a perfect princeſs. You leave it to ſhare with the greateſt monarch in Europe a throne reſpected through every part of the univerſe. The inſtant is at hand when your Royal Highneſs will, for ever, be withdrawn from our eyes. This affects us the more ſenſibly from the apprehenſion that the many great and brilliant objects with which you will henceforth be encircled, will efface ſo ſmall a place as ours, from your ineſtimable remembrance; yet that goodneſs which we have hitherto with tranſport admired in your Royal Highneſs, revives our ſpirits: it aſſures us that you will, even from the throne, condeſcend graciouſly to look back on our town, and continue the patroneſs of thoſe, whoſe happineſs it is to be the ſubjects of your illuſtrious family. We therefore in full confidence give ourſelves up to that lively joy excited in us all, on the glorious union to which the Divine Providence has called your royal Highneſs, and beg leave to accompany you with our moſt cordial wiſhes for your ſafe journey, and continual welfare and proſperity.

May the Eternal Ruler of all things, who hath appointed this great event, make your Royal Highneſs the moſt perfect inſtance of felicity; the delight of that Royal Family into which you are now entering, the joy of Britain,

tain, and the glory of the illuſtrious Houſe of Mecklenburg.

May our illuſtrious ſovereign, the beloved ADOLPHUS FREDERIC, long and in all earthly happineſs, together with his faithful and happy ſubjects, rejoice in theſe felicities!

Your Royal Highneſs will graciouſly permit that twelve of our daughters, here preſent in the attire of Innocence, may, as a memorial of this fortunate event, ſecond the ardent ſentiments of their fathers, and in artleſs words moſt humbly wiſh you a ſafe and pleaſant journey.

Aug. 27. 1761.

I.

(ELEONORA DOROTHEA MARIA BERTZHOVEN.)

HAIL princeſs, with each ſhining virtue bright,
All pure within, without all glorious light;
Whoſe form divine, whoſe goodneſs we adore;
Heaven bleſs thy parting from the German ſhore.

2.

(CHRISTIANA JULIANA ELIZABETH BERENDSEN.)

As conſort of a mighty monarch ſhine,
Reſtore the honours of an antient line;
For this thy coming Britain's king invites,
For this he calls to Hymen's ſoft delights.

3.

DOROTHEA ELIZABETH TETTINGER.

Thy ſoul with each divineſt virtue fraught,
Thy wiſdom perfect both in word and thought;
Each Britiſh boſom ſhall with raptures fire,
And Faction ſleep whilſt gazing crowds admire.

4. (So-

4.

(Sophia Elizabeth Gradhandler.)

When ſeated by thy royal conſort's ſide,
New luſtre he ſhall gain from ſuch a bride.
Her worth ſhall grace the ſacred nuptial ties,
And Britain's throne in dignity ſhall riſe.

5.

(Carolina Henrietta Tangatz.)

O God, whoſe mercies through the world abound,
Whoſe power ſupports the king thy hand has crown'd;
Waft o'er the main the bride's tranſcendent charms
In ſafety to the bridegroom's longing arms.

6.

(Dorothea Gauen.)

May ſhe with each endearing art poſſeſt,
To pleaſure ever ſooth the monarch's breaſt;
May all the royal virtues of her heart
To faithful ſubjects joy ſincere impart.

7.

(Anna Maria Elizabeth Christen.)

Britons, rejoice; receive with loud acclaim
Sophia Charlotte, ever dear to Fame;
Delight of Mecklenburg, ſhe comes to ſhower
On Britain's Iſle new bleſſings every hour.

8.

(Christina Sophia Soalow.)

From Ganges to where Miſſiſippi flows,
Diffuſing wealth and plenty as it goes;
From Senegal ſtill ſcorch'd by Phœbus' beam
To where St. Lawrence rolls his ſilver ſtream,
Proclaim Britannia's bliſs the world around,
From pole to pole, to earth's remoteſt bound.

9. Chris-

9.

(CHRISTINA ELIZABETH PHUELEN.)

Its wiſh auſpicious Havel haſtes to bring
For fair CHARLOTTA and for Britain's king;
On Britain's iſle all bleſſings he implores,
And rolls his friendly wave to Albion's ſhores.

10.

(DOROTHEA CHRISTIANA ELIZABETH REISEKEN.)

Beneath the Lord's anointed may ſhe thrive,
Still may his influence keep the palm alive:
Still may it flouriſh, branches ſtill extend,
Afford us ſhelter, and from heat defend.

11.

(MAGDALEN ELIZABETH COLTERJAHN.)

Thrice happy bride, who ſoon ſhall croſs the main,
Whom to behold again we wiſh in vain;
May happineſs unceaſing with thee dwell;
To every age may Fame thy glory tell.

12.

(CATHARINA SOPHIA BERTROWEN.)

Nought can our brothers ardent zeal reſtrain;
Fain would they tempt with thee the roaring main:
Permit them, queen, thy perſon to be near,
That of thy ſafety tidings we may hear.

(CHORUS.)

Yet for one favour more we muſt apply,
But little can theſe barren tracts ſupply;
Permit us, ſince both gold and pearls you ſcorn,
Your royal brows with myrtle to adorn.

[Theſe verſes were tranſlated into Engliſh by a gentleman in this country, whoſe name I am not at liberty to mention. I give you this hint to make an allowance for the verſification; and you muſt be ſatisfied with being aſſured, that the tranſlation conveys the ſenſe of the original.]

I have

I have given you, my dear friend, the whole contents of this packet, flattering myſelf that they will afford ſome entertainment to you, as they have done to me; for I aſſure you I am not a little pleaſed with the cavalcade and the poetical effuſions of the pretty young damſels. In my next I propoſe tranſmitting to you a ſhort deſcription of this country, with ſome account of its natural and civil hiſtory, its conſtitution and internal œconomy. You may depend on my exactneſs and fidelity in this relation, as well as on the ſincerity with which I ſubſcribe myſelf,

Dear Sir, yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER XIV.

Strelitz, November 1, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

IN conformity to my promiſe I ſend you a deſcription of the duchy of Mecklenburg; and ſhall obſerve to you, by the way, that this deſcription is founded not only on my own obſervation and reading, but on the many converſations I have had with the principal literati and perſons of intelligence throughout this country.

The duchy of Mecklenburg is ſituated in the circle of Lower Saxony, between 53 degrees 10 minutes and 54 degrees 40 minutes north latitude, and between 31 degrees and 34 degrees 35 minutes weſt longitude from the iſle of Ferro. Its greateſt length is about 135 geographical miles; and its breadth about 90. It is bounded by the Baltic on the north, by Pomerania on the eaſt, by the marquiſate of Brandenburg on the ſouth, by the biſhopric of Lubeck and the

the territories of Brunſwick and Lunenburg on the weſt. Few countries are ſo well watered as this, having ſeveral fine rivers, and a number of beautiful lakes. The principal rivers are the Elbe, the Stoer, the Elde, the Warnow, the Reckenitz, the Peene, the Mildenitz, the Nebel, and the Havel. The chief lakes are thoſe of Muritz, Calpin, Plauer, Schwerin, Krakow, Malchin, Sternberg, Cummerow, and Tollenſee.

The ſoil of this duchy, eſpecially in the middle and towards the north, rivals moſt others for fertility, yielding plenty of corn, flax, hemp, and all ſorts of fruit. The country is diverſified with hills and dales, and enriched with woods, in which there is fine timber, and plenty of game. There are meadows affording good paſture for cattle, in which the country abounded before the late calamitous mortality. They have numerous flocks of ſheep, by which they are ſupplied with plenty of wool. They have a good breed of horſes, but not very large; and prodigious herds of ſwine. Towards the ſouth, bordering on the electorate of Brandenburg, the ſoil is ſandy; and in other places there are heaths, with ſome moors and fens. The country produces no vines, and ſcarcely affords any mines or minerals. In the neighbourhood of Newſtadt they have ſome iron ore, and an allum mine not far from Eldena.

It

It is the opinion of the learned of this country, that a large arm of the Baltic, which at preſent only waſhes the boundaries, extended itſelf through the middle of Mecklenburg. However extraordinary this may appear, nothing is more probable. You cannot be ignorant of the great difference between ancient geography and the preſent ſtate of the earth: the former places waters, lakes, and the ocean, where now we meet with dry land: cities which ſtood along the ſea-ſhore, and were celebrated for maritime power and commerce, are now ſome leagues up the country. But I muſt obſerve to you, that the Tollen lake, which begins at a village in this neighbourhood called Prilwitz, and at New Brandenburg becomes a river, has to this very day a communication with the ſea, by its influx into the Peene. From the village of Prilwitz, a lofty ſhore runs on both ſides of the Tollen lake, forming a bed to that extenſive body of water. Near New Brandenburg there is ſuch another lofty incloſure, ſurrounding on both ſides the tract called the *Werder*; and between theſe heights is a plain lying horizontally with the Tollen lake; and in this plain ſtands New Brandenburg itſelf. Farther in the center is a running water ſurrounding that whole *Werder*; ſo that the preſent plain lies in the bed of a lake, which has loſt the greateſt part

part of its waters. Were it poſſible to hinder the iſſue of the Haff at Wolgaſt and Schwinemund, in Pomerania, in a ſhort time the whole plain on which New Brandenburg ſtands, together with all the rich paſtures, which extend themſelves horizontally through Mecklenburg and Pomerania along the Peene, would be overflowed, and the old bed of the arm of the Baltic be again navigable. This is farther corroborated by other appearances. It is a known fact throughout this country, that in the paſtures within the bed which communicates with the Tollen lake, many naval implements, as anchors and maſts, have been found by the turf-diggers. Now there could by no means be any ſuch thing, had not all this tract of paſturage once been a navigable water, or an arm of the Baltic. Beſides, in this tract are ſtill found lakes of a prodigious depth, which are not yet cloſed up; likewiſe many places, which, tho' practicable by man and beaſt, yield nevertheleſs to every ſtep; and, on taking a pole, and puſhing it thro' the herbage and congeſtions that cover the ſurface, ſo far from finding a bottom, the pole gradually ſinks till quite loſt: a proof that in many parts, under the ſurface of the paſtures, there are large pieces of water.

Every one knows, and inſtances of it abound, that ſurfaces of lakes become cloſed, whilſt waters remain beneath. The little ſtunted furz grow-

growing on moors denote ſuch cloſed lakes. I am credibly informed that in records of five or ſix hundred years ſtanding, the country between the paſtures lying horizontally with the Tollen lake, between Friedland, Treptow, and New Brandenburg, were called *Inſula*. Had this country been no more ſurrounded with water than at preſent, the appellation of *Inſula* could not have been given it with any propriety. But admitting all this tract to have been an arm of the Baltic, there was indeed ſufficient grounds for calling it an iſland.

Should I be aſked what is become of this water, I anſwer two ways. Firſt, It is known that waters become overgrown; the roots of the duckweed, lake lentils, nettles, and other aquatic herbs, ſhoot among each other, and receive the duſt or ſand, together with leaves, and graſs, and moſs ſeeds, which are driven about by the wind. Theſe growing up together form a ſurface of ſome compactneſs; and thus thoſe parts may come to be a verdant plain, which at firſt were clear water. Secondly, the depth of the bed, and the high ſhore, ſhew that the water in former times was actually higher. Experience demonſtrates that the inland waters riſe with thoſe of the ocean. It has been obſerved in Sweden, a century ago, that this part of the ocean decreaſes every year. Now, if we recur to 1000 or 2000 years, it will eaſily

appear that the Baltic may have been at ſuch a height, that New Brandenburg plains, as far as Demmin and Anclam, were covered with water, which ſince the decreaſe of the Baltic, has gradually been ebbing away.

The preſent form and appearance of this country is ſuppoſed by moſt of the literati to have been owing to an earthquake, if not to a ſucceſſion of ſuch convulſions. The grounds of this conjecture I ſhall explain to you in their own way of reaſoning, which is very plauſible.

The bottom of the lakes generally is a ſand; if in ſome few it be of another quality, as ſlime, or mud, under the mud one meets with a bottom conſiſting chiefly of ſand, and likewiſe of quartzy particles, which are not ſoluble in water. The country about New Strelitz appears, from the courſe of the rivers, to be the higheſt in all the circle of Stargard. All rivers lying northward flow from that quarter, and thoſe towards the ſouth have their current in a ſouthern direction; yet the higheſt part of Mecklenburg anciently lay at the bottom of the ſea. To what then leſs than an earthquake can we impute its being raiſed out of that bottom? If we ſurvey the hills extending along the Tollen lake, they exhibit the plaineſt traces of running ſtreams, which emptied themſelves into that body of water. On inveſtigating

veſtigating theſe hills, they are found to conſiſt entirely of ſuch ſtrata and beds, as plainly evince that theſe mounds were formerly fluid, and that the concretion and combination of them is owing to the gradual ebbing away of the waters. Under the ſurface of the ground near New Strelitz vaſt quantities of ſtones are found at the depth of more than ſix feet; and among them are a great many petrifactions, or whole maſſes of ſhells of all kinds incorporated with clayey or corneous ſubſtances. This likewiſe proves the ſoil to have once been ſo ſoft, that ſtones of any weight ſubſided to the bottom; and that between the ſtones ſhells have gathered, which in proceſs of time are become petrified in the calcareous earth.

Hence it is probable, that the ground which at preſent bears, and nouriſhes the inhabitants, was formerly a deep lake, and a part of the Baltic; but that being thrown up by an earthquake, the water at the ſame time, by the violence of the agitation filling the Tollen lake, together with all places horizontal to it, and theſe in proceſs of time becoming overgrown, the country is partly thereby, and partly by the decreaſe of the Baltic, become dry and practicable.

Thus the country about New Strelitz is ſuppoſed by theſe philoſophers to be riſen from the ſea. The town itſelf ſtands at the end of a ſmall peninſula, joined to the continent only

by an iſthmus. The waters about it, though moſt of them but narrow, yet uniting in a continued ſtream, the country is properly called a peninſula. From a fen northward riſes a ſpring, ſoon forming a ſtream, and runs into the Zirker lake, which, on the weſt ſide, waſhes the town, and the gardens of the ducal palace.

The country where the town ſtands, is ſaid to be very much altered in its appearance; ſo that they who ſaw it thirty or forty years ago, would hardly know it again. Mountains, vallies, fens, marſhes, woods, were interſperſed one among another, when the duke reſolved to turn the delightful hunting-ſeat of *Glineke* into a palace. By the hands of laborious induſtry, hills were levelled, vallies filled up, fens drained, marſhes made practicable, and the country decorated with limes, cheſnut, and variety of fruit-trees.

In the ſoil about New Strelitz, nature has indeed ſhewed itſelf a ſtep-mother. The ſurface, generally ſpeaking, is ſandy; but the gardens, rich in all manner of eſculent fruits, beſides pleaſant walks of uſeful trees, do the more honour to human ſkill and diligence. The ducal gardens eſpecially, are a glorious evidence of what may be atchieved by art and perſeverance. The ſwampy and marſhy parts have been made fit for culture; ſome improved into

into gardens, and may indeed be in ſome meaſure called floating gardens; being made on fens, which once were open ponds, and only overgrown with aquatic herbage: ſome are brought to afford plenty of excellent hay; and others contain an inexhauſtible ſtore of turf. The moſt is made of every thing; and ſpots which elſewhere would be accountedbeneath notice, are here improved to conſiderable advantage. Were the number of men and their induſtry in other more fruitful countries equal to what is ſeen here, how prodigiouſly would they be enriched! If labour and diligence can in ſo ungrateful a ſoil raiſe ſuch products, what may not be accompliſhed where bounteous nature, as it were, invites the hand of induſtry! The upper part of the earth about New Strelitz varies in quality. The neareſt to the ſurface is generally ſandy, but in many parts conſiderably meliorated by the air, and the maceration of plants. Sand, white, yellow and red; loam, with red and yellow clays, and veins of lime, lye intermixed in an undulated diſpoſition. In the hills, beds of them are found within half a foot of the ſurface: and in levelling thoſe hills a ſingular variety of ſuch foſſils was diſcovered. The water which is found in great plenty among theſe ſtrata, is excellent, and of a charming brightneſs, to which doubtleſs its courſe

along the ſands muſt in no ſmall meaſure contribute.

According to the uſual property of ſandy countries, here are large quantities of ſtone; but by the great encreaſe of buildings, and the paving of the ſtreets, it is ſo far diminiſhed, that the hills have been opened for a farther ſupply, and they are found to afford very extenſive quarries. Appearances ſhow this ground to have been ejected out of the ſea in a ſtate of fluidity, the ſtones having ſunk to a conſiderable depth. But uncommon quantities being by the courſe of the waters continually carried and lodged among the ſand, put a ſtop to its fluidity. From theſe congeſtions of ſand aroſe the great number of hills hereabouts, lying contiguous to one another, and plainly exhibiting the traces of a running water. The ſtones are of different kinds.

The principal are, 1. The flint, properly ſo called, which is commonly conceived an original ſtone, though I ſhall preſently introduce an obſervation towards explaining this problem.

2. Sand ſtones, ſome of which have already acquired ſuch a hardneſs as not to be eaſily broken. Others are ſofter, others little more than a white lax ſand, within an indurated cruſt; others again are full of black flakes, beginning to granulate; and theſe flakes are ferruginous.

Horn-

3. Horn-ſtone, or properly fire-ſtone, of a brown colour, and whilſt under ground, quite ſoft, but ſoon indurated by lying in the air. In theſe are found great numbers of petrifactions, as echinites, belemnites, &c.

4. Marbles, diſtinguiſhable by their hardneſs and beauty, and likewiſe containing petrifactions. You know that marbles were at firſt a ſoft impreſſible maſs, which gradually hardened into ſtone. This kind of ſtone is filled with innumerable petrifactions, and found in the mountains hereabouts between beds of flints, and in ſuch plenty, that in two days a whole cart-load of ſuch marble might be collected. Many pieces, which would be highly valued by virtuoſo's, are daily uſed by the maſons. I ſhall only mention a few.

1. Red marble ſpeckled with green, ferruginous, and ſo hard as to receive a fine poliſh. I have ſeen a piece of it that might make the leaf of a ſmall table; and on both ſides full of large orthoceratites.

2. A grey marble, in which are lituites above a foot in length.

3. Grey marble, with corals, turbinites, tudelites, trochites, and an infinite variety of marine ſhells, all ſo hard as to be poliſhable. There are beſides great quantities, not yet come to perfection; and indeed, to acquire their complete hardneſs, they muſt have remained in the quarry ſome centuries longer.

The following ſhew the earths of which they conſiſt.

1. Of yellow lime with a variety of ſhells.

2. Of loam and lime, and likewiſe ſhells, as terebratulites, pectinites, chamites, and the greater part ſtill with their natural ſhells. Others contain large conchæ trilobæ. In others are found many ſmall orthoceratites.

3. Of fleaky earths. Of theſe I have ſeen pieces with lituites, and others which ſhew more than one kind of the conchæ trilobæ.

Such a quantity of marine petrifactions in the mountains, amidſt the flints, ſeems farther to confirm the conjecture of the literati, that this part of Mecklenburg was thrown up from the bottom of the ſea by an earthquake.

4. Ochreous ſtones, to which particularly belongs the ætites or the eagle-ſtone. Large pieces of ochre are likewiſe found, but ſo intermixed with ſand as not to be uſed in painting.

In the ſtrata affording much lime, are ſtones, which when burned make a very good gyps; and in one of them was found a large piece of very fine talc.

I mentioned to you before, that it is not yet fully determined whether flints be originally ſtone. The general opinion ſuppoſes them to be fragments of rock, and their roundneſs to proceed from their being abraded and driven about by the force of water. But ſome experiments

riments render it probable that flints undergo a gradual formation.

A ferruginous juice incorporating with the ſand, occaſions an increment in the coalition of the grains of ſand with one another, and they aſſume a black colour. The granules are not yet ſo intimately concreted, but they may be triturated by the finger. Many ſtones of this kind are found here among the ſand-hills; and theſe, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, are the germ or elementary ſubſtance of a flint.

Farther, I am told, there are places where the black parts are become ſomething larger, and have white ſpateous ſpecks. Theſe are met with in thoſe parts where the ſand is impregnated with lime. Whilſt this ſtone remains in the moiſt earth, it is ſo ſoft as to be friable. But after being expoſed only a few days to the air, the coat of it becomes of ſome hardneſs. On breaking it, the internal part is found ſoft; but this likewiſe ſoon hardens in the air. This I call the ſecond degree of the formation of the flint, that is, when a calcareous juice inſinuates itſelf with the incorporated ſand and iron, and thus fills the interſtices between the ſandy parts with ſpat. If the calcareous juice be in any great quantity, it not only penetrates thro' the interſtices of the ſandy particles, but makes itſelf ducts, ſerpentiſing in the ſtone like white veins. I have ſeen ſuch a ſtone, which

which at firſt was quite ſoft, but is now extremely hard, and in which the origination of a flint may be very clearly obſerved. As our body is interwoven with a great number of ducts, ſo likewiſe is this ſtone variegated with many calcareous veins, ſome running into each other, then ſeparating, and forming innumerable cells and meanders. In theſe cells lie the black grains of ſand intermixed with ſpat, and theſe ferruginous ſands and ſpats conſtitute the ſubſtance of the ſtone. Now on viewing a flint ſtone cloſely, and eſpecially through a microſcope, it is ſeen to conſiſt of black and white granules, with a great number of white veins. From the ſimilarity it may be therefore concluded, that flint ſtones are originated from the ſand.

So much for the ſoil and foſſils of this country; I ſhall now give you ſome account of the ſtate of cultivation, eſpecially in what relates to agriculture. This you are very ſenſible is one of the principal and moſt neceſſary arts, without which the human race could ſcarce ſubſiſt. It is the moſt innocent and moſt natural profeſſion, the chief and moſt certain ſource of the wealth of a ſtate; for a land to grow rich without a diligent application to agriculture, there muſt be a very extraordinary concurrence of fortunate circumſtances. Experience has manifeſted that even trade and manufactures

cannot

cannot enrich a country under a neglect of agriculture. And this is eaſily conceived, as when a country has ſuch a ſufficiency of corn from itſelf, that it can ſpare great quantities to foreigners, the balance muſt neceſſarily be to its advantage, that is, if trade and manufactures contribute their quota; for if theſe do not flouriſh proportionably, the country loſes what it muſt pay to foreigners, and this much exceeds what it gains from them by ſelling its raw products, of which the duchy of Mecklenburg is a melancholy inſtance. If, on the contrary, in a ſtate where trade and manufactures are in high vogue, agriculture is neglected, ſuch a country gradually ruins itſelf; for, beſides that trades and handicrafts cannot employ all the hands without agriculture, larger ſums muſt be paid to foreigners for abſolute neceſſaries, than is gained from them by ſuperfluities, by which means a ſtate may come to be quite exhauſted.

I have heard ſome of the moſt ſenſible gentlemen in this country complain, that agriculture is not ſtudied here as a ſcience, nor brought to any certain rules and maxims. Moſt of the farmers blindly follow the examples of others, and abide by old cuſtoms, which are often pernicious; or, at beſt, it is not till after repeated damages and loſſes, that any of them are brought to learn a true method of farming, to know what is to be done, and what avoided.

The

The generality of the nobleſſe in this country hold their lands in their own hands, and are what we call in England gentlemen-farmers. Hence it often happens that an eſtate falls to one who has not the leaſt acquaintance with country affairs, and who ſcarce was ever out of his pariſh. Would a father who has lands to leave to his ſon, ſend him abroad under proper care, where the ſubjects are encouraged to rural improvements by prizes and rewards, and ſocieties meet to improve this ſo neceſſary ſcience; where the cauſes and reaſons of every thing are carefully examined, and practical maxims deduced from them, with inſtructions for carrying them into the moſt advantageous execution; would not ſuch a one, on his taking poſſeſſion of an eſtate, aboliſh many wrong cuſtoms, make new improvements, and thus conſiderably enlarge his income?

There is ſcarce a farmer or a landholder in this country who does not conceit himſelf a perfect maſter of agriculture, and the whole compaſs of farming. He pronounces decifively on every thing: but, on examination, all his ſkill and underſtanding conſiſts only in cuſtom and old uſages, and he turns the deaf ear to every thing that is new, and not immediately clear to his uncultivated underſtanding. If any alterations are talked of, he pleads impoſſibility, cuſtom, and the nature of the

the ſoil, and foretels what ſad conſequences will follow ſuch innovation.

This pertinacious adherence to old cuſtoms is the principal cauſe of the ſlow progreſs of agriculture throughout this country: yet the gentlemen of Mecklenburg cannot be ignorant of the great improvements other nations have made in farming within this half century, how many new practices they have introduced, and from how many old ones they have departed. Indeed the laſt twenty years are ſaid to have brought about ſome very happy alterations in Mecklenburg; they have begun to imitate ſome of the good regulations of their neighbours, and farming now makes a quite different appearance. But they are greatly miſtaken, who imagine that matters are already brought to the higheſt degree of perfection. Very far from it. Not to mention the great number of thoſe who, either from ignorance or remiſſneſs, abide by the old rules of the peaſants, they who aim at improvement of rural œconomy, have ſtill many things to imitate, for giving a greater fecundity to the fields, meadows, and paſtures; for making ſwampy places, fens, hills, and mountains, arable; for encreaſing woods by new plantations; and likewiſe for drawing greater advantages than formerly from fiſheries and other regalia.

In ſeveral parts of Germany they have learned to plant tobacco, from French and Palatine

refugees, which has turned to very conſiderable account. There are ſome in this country who have likewiſe embarked in the ſame undertaking, and found that by planting tobacco, and the frequent grubbing up the ground requiſite in that operation, the ſoil is meliorated and cleared of weeds. Several farmers have likewiſe foreign vegetables, as broccoli, truffles, lucern, and clover. But I wonder that ſuch good examples are not more followed.

While the people of this country have ſtill ſo many uncultivated tracts, and unfruitful hills, they ſhould not complain as they do that arable land and farms are wanting: ſo long as their cattle are without fodder in winter, and yet ſeveral parts of the country over-run with ſwamps and fens, which affect the fruitfulneſs and ſalubrity of the land, they cannot with any grace call themſelves good huſbandmen. When no place of any conſequence ſhall lie uncultivated and uſeleſs, whether in fields, meadows, or woods, then, and not till then, one may conclude, that the country is ſufficiently populous, and has great numbers of induſtrious and knowing farmers.

Improvements in agriculture are infinite, and every day produces ſome; but they require diligence and experience, intelligent and ſagacious huſbandmen. When a farmer lays aſide his prejudices, and attends to right and beneficial

meaſures, and this is accompanied with ſome diſpoſition to promote the general good, he will be continually improving in rural œconomy.

A gentleman of this country was mentioning to me the other day a plan, which he propoſes laying before the duke, for the ſpeedier improvement in ſeveral branches of huſbandry.

Every farmer or landholder ſhould keep a book, for ſetting down exactly when, and in what manner, he prepared his ground, and ſowed and reaped; what throve, and what did not; what he omitted; to what any miſcarriage may be attributed; what advantageous method he has made uſe of; what experiments he has tried; how they anſwered, and ſo forth. In a word, all, to the moſt minute proceedings, with their reſult of them, muſt be ſet down in this book.

Every half year, ſix, eight, or ten neareſt neighbours ſhould meet, produce their books, compare them freely, and make their obſervations. Every one, for his farther remembrance and reflection, muſt take ſuch obſervations as are practicable down in writing, and make experiments on them; of what has thriven he muſt give an account to his neighbours, and continue that proceſs, laying aſide ſuch practices as have failed. The keeping ſuch a book would be but little trouble, rather an entertainment; and a moſt uſeful work to poſterity.

The

The principal cauſe of the ſlow improvements in agriculture throughout this country, is the change of rural œconomy, which has thrown the farms into fewer hands; a pernicious practice like that of engroſſing them, in England. I have had frequent converſations on this ſubject with ſome of the moſt experienced in theſe matters, by which means I am enabled to trace the affair to its ſource, and to ſhew you the difference between the ancient and preſent ſtate of farming in the duchy of Mecklenburg.

Within ſomething above a century this country has ſuſtained ſuch alterations as totally ſubverted the ancient œconomy. The Thirty Years War, in which the dukes of Mecklenburg were unhappily involved, was attended with deplorable ravages, and general Gallas made it his particular buſineſs to deſolate the circle of Stargard, in which Strelitz is ſituated. There are ſtill many monuments of his inhumanity, by which that commander appears to have been a ſevere ſcourge to this country. War brought on the peſtilence, which, eſpecially in the year 1636, &c. ſwept away almoſt the whole remainder of its inhabitants. From the year 1650, the duchy of Mecklenburg began to recover itſelf a little; but that it has not yet recovered its former affluence and populouſneſs, the following reaſons, I apprehend, will demonſtrate.

1. The

1. The duchy of Mecklenburg had formerly more villages than at preſent. We are ſtill acquainted with the names of villages now no longer exiſting; and on the heaths and in woods one meets with the ruins of houſes, and even of churches. Many woods now are called *Hagen*, which, in the old Teutonic ſignified a village. Now that woods could be ſo called, is not well to be ſuppoſed, had they not borrowed this appellation from the village, the ſite of which they at preſent occupy. That *Hagen* ſignifies a village, is very plain, from its compoſition with other names; as Hinrricks-hagen, Dietricks-hagen, Lutkenhagen, &c. Thoſe villages, the names of which terminate in *Hagen*, belong to the middle ages, and were founded by Chriſtian inhabitants; as thoſe ending in *Itz* and *Ow*, were built in the moſt ancient times of idolatry. No new villages are to be found in Mecklenburg, unleſs we will give that name to a few farms here and there; and theſe were rather built for cattle than for men.

2. This duchy had more inhabitants formerly than at preſent. This indeed ſeems a direct inference from the former, as the more villages, very probably the more inhabitants; but I will produce to you a proof of another kind. I have ſeen ſeveral old regiſters, which demonſtrate the point. I ſhall only mention two inſtances. In a village,

where, ſince the Thirty Years war, there have been only five peaſants and a farm-houſe, there were formerly fifteen, beſides the farm-houſe. It is true, theſe were only half farmers, called *Coſſats*: but theſe half farmers I am told had as many domeſtics and cattle as a whole farmer of the preſent times. And this is certain from all accounts, that each of the fifteen peaſants had ſcarce half as much ground as each of the five preſent. In another village there are at this time eight peaſants; but from a tax regiſter it appears, that anciently every peaſant of the village was to deliver eighteen buſhels of grain; the total amounts to three hundred and ſixty; conſequently the village, where at preſent only eight peaſants can get a living, had at that time twenty.

In travelling through Mecklenburg, one ſees without the preſent limits of moſt of the villages, fruit-trees, heaps of ſtones, and other monuments, which plainly ſhew that the villages were formerly much larger. Were the preſent inhabitants of the circle of Stargard to be numbered, there is reaſon to believe that they would be found leſſened in proportion. And contrary to all expectation it has appeared, on a regular ſurvey, that the moſt fruitful parts of Mecklenburg have the feweſt inhabitants, and that the worſt are the beſt peopled.

3. There

3. There was formerly more tillage and graziery than at preſent. Few diſtricts are ſo generally cultivated as once was the univerſal practice. In moſt we meet with whole tracts over-run with woods, where the marks of the furrows are ſtill remaining; a plain proof that theſe woods occupy the place of what formerly was arable land. There are even heaths where theſe traces of the plough are to be ſeen. Now, if a greater number of people lived in a diſtrict, it would require that it ſhould be every where cultivated to the utmoſt. And this extenſion of tillage would likewiſe require a greater number of cattle. And of courſe, more cattle muſt have been kept in that diſtrict. How all theſe could ſubſiſt in a ſpot of land, which at preſent ſcarce maintains a much ſmaller number, I ſhall explain to you hereafter.

4. From the inquiries I have made, it appears that domeſtic œconomy was in thoſe times quite different from what we now ſee it; and this I ſhall ſhew in ſeveral particulars. The villages and the lands belonging to them had their proprietors in thoſe days as at preſent; but the difference between the ancient and the modern œconomy was very great. Moſt of the villages were divided among ſeveral proprietors. In proof of this I ſhall only mention the village of Ziercke, on the other ſide of the lake of Strelitz, which, though ſmall and inconſidera-

ble, is ſaid to have had ſeveral noble proprietors, of whom each had one or two manſion-houſes. The like is applicable to moſt villages. The villages were divided according to the number of families: father, brother, children, and ſons-in-law, lived with one another, and every one had his property. Whether this was an advantage or a detriment to the noble families, I ſhall not take upon me to decide; but certainly, to all the inhabitants of a village taken aggregately, it muſt have been highly beneficial. If a village was divided among ſeveral proprietors, every one ſtood up for his right, and conſequently the whole was regularly divided; both the arable and the paſture land, according to the neareſt equality in goodneſs. Every one had likewiſe his certain tract of woodland; and there are many places, where they ſtill retain the diſcriminative names; though theſe names are of no farther uſe than to denote the former ſtate and conſtitution of Mecklenburg. There were alſo commons, open to the cattle of the whole diſtrict; the excluſion now ſo frequent, was not then known.

The lower claſs of inhabitants or peaſants followed this regulation. On the marriage of children, the father did not turn them out of doors, nor were they taken from him for the ſervice of his lord; but he either kept them in the houſe, or built a cottage for their accommodation. Here he ſettled his children,

and

and they were occaſionally to aſſiſt him in his labour. The villains performed their ſervices to their lord weekly; but theſe ſervices were nothing ſo burthenſome as at preſent. It is ſcarce fifty years ago, ſince the boors in Mecklenburg ſerved only five days in the week, having the ſixth free to themſelves. Neither did they employ in this ſervice ſuch a number of cattle and men as at preſent. But at that time there were laws for regulating the labour and ſervices of the villains, and laws duly obſerved. Now if the wealth of a country, which has no foreign maritime commerce, conſiſts in the number of its inhabitants, agriculture, and grazing; Mecklenburg muſt be allowed to have been a very opulent country before the Thirty Years War. The villages indeed did not produce one-fourth of their preſent rents; but they maintained more men and cattle; and conſequently the products of the lands, being diſtributed into more hands, exceeded thoſe of our times.

5. As to the queſtion, how a greater number of men could ſubſiſt in Mecklenburg, you muſt conſider, that the manner of living in former times is to be diſtinguiſhed from the preſent; and on this occaſion I ſhall mention a paſſage which I had from an eminent lawyer in this country. Towards the end of the ſixteenth century a

gentleman, whoſe family is now extinct, lived with his wife, but no children, at his village, and owed 6000 florins, or 3000 rix-dollars. In the year 1575, he formally made the eſtate over to his creditors, for 12000 florins or 6000 rix-dollars, with a proviſo, that, if after deducting the capital which had been lent, they would allow him five per cent per annum for the remaining 3000 rix-dollars, the eſtate ſhould be theirs by purchaſe, as he could live on the intereſt. The inference I draw from this is, that 200 years ago, a gentleman with 150 rix-dollars a year, could ſubſiſt genteely, according to the then mode of living. Now, if in thoſe times ſo ſmall a ſum could ſuffice for a gentleman, it may eaſily be reckoned how little a peaſant or a meaner perſon required for his ſubſiſtence; and thus you ſee how at that time, a much greater number of people could ſubſiſt in Mecklenburg than at preſent. No coach and horſes were then known, no livery ſervants, no waiting-maids, no Burgundy and Champaigne, no French and Bruſſels lace, no *Faro*, and *Triſett*. A leaſh of grey-hounds was the only equipage, and theſe fed on bread from the owner's ground, and at the ſame time partly ſupplied his kitchen.

But for a farther elucidation of this point, I ſhall give you from good authority an account of their former manner of living, eſpecially that which

which obtained in all its ſimplicity among the country people. The duchy of Mecklenburg indiſputably abounds in proviſions: it is the ſame ſoil as it was two hundred years ago. What a great quantity of corn, butter, cattle, eſpecially hogs and ſheep, are every year exported, which if conſumed at home, would ſuffice for ſome thouſands! More hands were formerly employed in agriculture; and graziery, which, at preſent is in the hands of few, was then general, every family, more or leſs, keeping cattle. The many hundreds of pigs, for inſtance, which now die every year for want of neceſſary care, by reaſon of the multitude of them, were the peculiar department of the farmer's induſtrious wife; ſo that few or none were loſt: conſequently, there was annually a greater increaſe of proviſions.

Every inhabitant had his parcel of land, on which he lived; and beſides tillage the generality of cottagers could keep a cow, a hog, a couple of geeſe, and even a ſheep, which were his ſupport. The peaſant lived by the ground which he tilled; he ſowed and reaped, and his crop was his ſubſiſtence. The principal article of his houſhold was his being able to keep a cow, as will appear from this compariſon. Suppoſe two peaſants with equal families; one keeps a cow, the other has none: now, on obſervation how much corn each brings to the

mill, the latter will be found to uſe as much again as the former. Eat he muſt; but what? While the former has milk, cheeſe, &c. the latter can only take ſome meal, ſtir it about in water, boil it up, and there's his fare. The former wants no fire to dreſs his food; whereas the latter cannot by any means do without it. This ſufficiently proves that the breeding of cattle is what a peaſant can ſubſiſt on both beſt and cheapeſt. A poor peaſant in this country could formerly as well ſupport himſelf with milk, as the boor in Pomerania does to this day, having always in his cottage a large veſſel, into which is poured a quantity of milk, from whence the family occaſionally ſupply themſelves. The Mecklenburgher would unqueſtionaly embrace the like reſource, had he, as formerly, a cow to come home every evening with full dugs.

The ancient inhabitants uſed for their cloathing wool and flax, the earth with his own induſtry ſupplying him with both. He who had no ground for ſowing flax, agreed with a neighbour to ſow linſeed for him on his ground, and by way of return he was to help him in his work. Thus the inhabitants procuring flax by their own labour, ſtood in no need of money for purchaſing it. The other article was wool. Moſt peaſants took care to have one or two ſheep; and he who had none uſed to earn wool, particularly by ſheep-

ſhearing;

ſhearing; thus the inhabitants were furniſhed with cloathing. The old Mecklenburg dreſs ſtill ſubſiſts in ſome places, and eſpecially along the Baltic. It is but lately that the lower claſs are come to wear cloth. The wool was ſpun, and coloured with hrebs, brown, blue, yellow, green, and even dark red, according to every one's fancy. In the weaving of flax or linnen, wool was partly ſhot in inſtead of thread, which made *worp* the old original wear of the Mecklenburghers. The only pecuniary expence was paying the weaver; all the reſt the peaſant provided by his own induſtry: the taylor's place was ſupplied by the good mother of the family. Another article of expence, indeed, was now and then a pair of ſhoes; but in ſuch cheap times, and ſuch a plenty of leather, theſe could have coſt but little.

Farther, the duchy of Mecklenburg formerly enjoyed a beneficial trade, which of late, is reduced only to ſending corn out of the country, bringing in money in return, and immediately ſending it out again, for things they might very well do without. A hundred rix-dollars brought into the country for corn, and a hundred rix-dollars ſent out of it for wine, is an even balance, without the leaſt advantage to the ſtate. Formerly, the money remained in the country; what the peaſant wanted he bought of the artificer, who again was his cuſtomer; and this produced a happy

circulation. They were at little coſt even about their furniture and utenſils, moſt of them being the work of their own hands. A pot and kettle they bought; but the other neceſſaries employed their winter evenings. A board with four legs ſerved for a table and bench; and a board faſtened in the ſide of the room ſupplied the place of a cupboard. Chairs were made of plaited chips; a ſquare piece of wood was a plate; the father of the family cut ſpoons, made the wooden parts of the ploughs and carriages, and brought up the young ones to the like ſkilful induſtry: in making nets all hands were employed; and thus all lived in comfort and plenty.

I have already obſerved to you that there was but little wood in Mecklenburg: but in thoſe times much leſs wood ſerved than at preſent. The houſes were quite different from thoſe now in uſe. A man of ſubſtance had but two ſmall rooms, and an inferior enjoyed himſelf in one. Then turf was dug, ſo that there was no want of fuel. In a word, thoſe times had advantages which the preſent circumſtances do not afford: and upon the beſt calculations that I have heard, the natural riches of this country were greater at that time, when an eſtate was valued only at 6000 rix-dollars, which now would fetch 40,000.

Thus

Thus have I given you a general ſketch of domeſtic œconomy, as it ſtood about two centuries ago; I ſhall now add a few obſervations for the better comparing an article of ſuch importance with the preſent. From the foregoing review you will find that this country was well peopled; all thoſe villages and farm-houſes, which now lie in ruins, ſwarmed with peaſants. The calamities of the times, by deſtroying the habitations have ſcattered the people; and little care has been taken to rebuild the villages, and recruit them with inhabitants. The erection of glaſs manufactures has indeed cleared many arable tracts, which had been over run with ſhrubbery, till in time the glaſs-houſes were turned into farms. But theſe farms are in the hands of one ſingle proprietor, and do not contribute to the ſupport of ſuch a number of men as might live in thoſe places. Thus population has not been increaſed by that change; only more corn has been produced for one ſingle owner. Were a ſcheme to take place for all the villages to be filled with inhabitants, as formerly, numbers would be found greatly wanting; and to ſupply the deficiency with foreign emigrants, has its difficulties and inconveniencies. Were public notice given that a Saxon or Pomeranian farmer or huſbandman ſhould have a recompence fully adequate to his work, it would ſoon appear how little foreigners are

diſpoſed

diſpoſed to remove hither and till the land. Artificers indeed ſettle in ſome of the towns, and to their advantage in many reſpects. The great ſcarcity of hands in this country never is more manifeſt, than when men are wanted for any particular buſineſs. Then it is viſible, that there is ſcarce a ſufficiency for performing the common neceſſary works; and even theſe muſt exert their whole ſtrength, and often wear themſelves out before their time.

Many are the cauſes of this want of men. A great part of the youth quit their country, and go into foreign ſervice; and the country labouring-man is reduced to ſuch neceſſity and indigence, that it is eaſy to foreſee the number will leſſen ſooner than encreaſe. Whilſt a man and a maid remain ſingle, they are briſk, active, healthy, and ſtrong; and their appearance praiſes their keeper. But before they have well lived a year together in marriage, their bloom is faded, and their ſtrength gone. Toil and penury, laborious days, nights taken up with the buſineſs of the houſe, bringing of wood, working in their bit of a garden, low wages, and even from theſe frequently ſome oppreſſive defalcations; do ſuch things afford any proſpect of an encreaſe in the human ſpecies? Children come on. The mother muſt attend and work at the lord's manſion-houſe, the child is left under the care of another not much bigger than itſelf,

and

and inſtead of food, ſpends itſelf in crying till ſleep relieves it. At length it gets food, coarſe ſour bread, which then it devours to exceſs. Such nurture creates various diſtempers, and the greater part of the poor creatures periſh before they are capable of any ſervice. The adults are weak, and being unable to labour, have nothing to live on, and thus are deſtitute of ſuccour and remedies. How is it poſſible that under ſuch circumſtances the people ſhould encreaſe; much leſs reach the numerous population of former times?

Some are apt to ſay, that agriculture has been brought in this country to the ſummit of perfection; whereas the more ſenſible part acknowledge that the country is nothing near tilled to that extent and advantage as formerly. There are, however, who pretend, that the deficiency is made up by the preſent manner of cultivation. It is not long ſince it has grown into a cuſtom, that a proprietor having two villages near one another, turns one into a farm, and makes the other a village for his peaſants to live in; or, in other words, of two inhabited villages, diſpeoples one; and at preſent they grow very fond of imitating the Holſtein œconomy, in thus building villages in couples. I do not deny that a proprietor is conſiderably advantaged by this new invention of avidity; yet not to mention his villains being extremely enfeebled by their laborious field-ſervices, it is a queſtion whether

ther his profits would ſuffer any conſiderable diminution, were both villages properly inhabited.

Let us ſuppoſe a proprietor with a farm requiring eight laſts of ſeed; the management of it cannot be well conducted without a village of ten peaſants; and theſe will not fully anſwer all the agreſtic ſervices; he muſt farther have three teams of horſes, and men to take care of his cattle. Now let the proprietor compute the joint produce of both villages, and deducting the ſeveral expenditures, divide the farm among ſixteen peaſants, in ſuch a proportion that each ſhall uſe half a laſt of corn for ſeed, and be allowed to pay a pecuniary duty inſtead of field ſervice; it is a problem yet undetermined, whether, under ſuch a diſtribution, his eſtate does not bring him in as much, as under the former circumſtances, when he engroſſed the whole produce of the farm? The latter method, at leaſt, is the beſt for encreaſing the number of inhabitants. This I think is very clear. Let us compare a village where the peaſants pay inſtead of ſerving, and are certain that they and theirs ſhall remain at home; let us compare it, I ſay, with a village that has a farm, where the peaſants muſt perform the ſeveral ſervices. It is obvious that the former will have a great many more inhabitants than the latter. For inſtance: the village of Sandhagen, not far from Friedland, and that of Zi-

ercke,

ercke, near this town of New Strelitz, are in ſo ungrateful a ſoil, and ſo inconveniently ſituated, that there is ſcarce a worſe in all Mecklenburg; yet as the peaſants redeem their ſervices by money, both are much better peopled than other villages more happily ſituated, but under different circumſtances.

Agriculture itſelf would be a conſiderable gainer by the laſt method; for every one knows that we are more careful and diligent when working for ourſelves, than when ſlaving for others. The peaſant, whilſt employed in his lord's ſervice, is no more than a machine, and the ſteward or proprietor is the mobile of it: he never conſults reaſon, or the ſuggeſtions of experience: and frequently it is more than he dare do, as poſſibly he might then be found wiſer than his overſeer. He muſt toil till the manſion-houſe bell rings, which often is prolonged beyond the due time, and this without any intervals for reſt. The natural conſequence muſt be, that this peaſant goes heavily and negligently about his work; whereas he who pays a pecuniary acknowledgement inſtead of his ſervice, looks on the land as his property, and the fruits of his labour are his own. This animates him to greater induſtry and circumſpection in all his proceedings, in manuring, ſowing, and every part of huſbandry. Such were the means by which this country was enabled to afford a plentiful ſubſiſtence to ſo many thouſands

ſands more than at preſent. The lands were divided among the farmers, who, beſides the ſupplies to their landlords, maintained themſelves and their children, together with whole families of domeſtics and ſervants. And, for the preſervation of good order and juſtice, country courts were erected, with a manſion-houſe and a parcel of land for the judge, who was thus always at hand, and whoſe intereſt it likewiſe was to put an immediate ſtop to all irregularities, and conſult the proſperity of the diſtrict.

Graziery, in ancient times, ſeems to have laboured nearly under the ſame difficulties as at preſent; and yet it certainly was then in a much more flouriſhing ſtate. This branch of huſbandry is of greater advantage to a country than the richeſt mine works. Of theſe only a part of the inhabitants can partake, but graziery benefits the whole, from the higheſt to the loweſt.

The Mecklenburg horſes are, in themſelves, ſtrong and vigorous; and if not quite ſo large as thoſe of Holſtein, ſo are they not by far ſo weakly, and feed on cheaper fodder. Yet, generally ſpeaking, the breeding of horſes is very much neglected in Mecklenburg. The farmers make the greater part of thoſe who keep horſes; yet are they moſt wretchedly careleſs, or at leaſt miſtaken in the means of having good cattle; though a bad beaſt requires as much fodder as the beſt. He turns his foals

on

on the common, for two years, amidſt ſtone-horſes and mares; and in the third year his foal yields him another; and by this time both are good for nothing. The young ſtone-horſe likewiſe ſpoils itſelf amidſt the great number of mares; whereas, were the peaſants allowed a ſeparate cloſe for young ſtone-horſes, and a ſtallion common to the diſtrict, theſe miſchiefs would be prevented, and within the ſmall ſpace of five or ſix years, the breed of horſes be conſiderably improved.

It is pretty much the like caſe with the horned cattle. The firſt year, a calf intended to be brought up is kept at home, and the ſecond year it is turned on the common; where, beſides other incidental damages, a cow-calf uſually calves in the third year, which impairs both its growth and ſtrength, and the future breed ſuffers from theſe defects in the dam. Whereas, were a diſtrict of ſeveral villages allowed a cloſe, where the young cattle might feed by themſelves another year, graziery would be greatly advantaged.

The breeding of ſheep, that ſource of the woollen trade, the advantages of which are ſo many, is left to the good pleaſure of the ſhepherds; and theſe, if not belied, make advantages not eaſily detected. It is ſaid to be their ſingular good fortune, that their ſheep have both the beſt lambs and the beſt

wool. Whether this be true, I know not; but I am told, that whether the ram has good or bad wool, is made a matter of indifference. An experiment has been tried in ſeveral countries of procuring foreign rams of a finer wool; and it has been found to anſwer very well in the lambs of ſuch a breed. I queſtion whether a perſon who propoſed imitating this in Mecklenburg, would not expoſe himſelf to ridicule and cenſure. But if procuring foreign ſtallions for ſtuds has been found of ſuch advantage, why not likewiſe try the experiment of foreign rams, when the caſes are quite ſimilar?

Nothing is more detrimental to ſheep-breeding than the continual rovings of the ſhepherds; who, Tartar like, generally ſhift their walks every year, totally unacquainted with the nature of the ſeveral ſoils. Each has its particular quality; meadows, marſhes, ſwampy, dry parts, under ſome circumſtances are noxious to the ſheep, and at other times agree with them: each has a particular herbage; ſome wholeſome, others pernicious. This in my opinion is the real cauſe of ſo great a mortality among the ſheep; at leaſt I have been informed of an inſtance, which very much confirms me in this opinion.

The regular and exact diviſion of arable land among the joint inhabitants of a place, is at preſent become ſo obſolete, that ſcarce any veſtige

veſtige of that beneficial equity is remaining: except that ſome particulars relating to the glebe of a few pariſhes and the prieſt's portion ſhew how the ancient cuſtom ſtood. It was juſtly thought, that the inhabitants of a diſtrict ought to have a certain part of the land for their uſe. Theſe inhabitants made four claſſes, the nobility, the farmers, the boors, and the clergy. The country was divided into ſmaller parts for the conveniency of tillage, and that which required twelve buſhels for ſowing, was called a *hufe* or *manſus* †. Of theſe, the *ritter* or gentleman had a part granted him by the duke, and they were known by the name of *ritterhufes*, being in leſſer or greater number according to the extent of the different diſtricts; ſome of which comprehended ten, twelve, or ſixteen *ritterhufes*; and they were all to be tilled by the farmer.

It was but reaſonable that the farmer's induſtry and labour ſhould procure him a competent ſubſiſtence; on this account four ſuch *hufes* were allowed to one farm, which thus became taxable; *habet quatuor manſos* occurs

† The method of meaſuring out land by the *manſus* or *hufe* was eſtabliſhed in this country by the Saxons, who are ſaid to have borrowed it from the Hollanders. The Dutch *manſus*, according to Lambecius, contained in length ſeven hundred and twenty, in breadth thirty *regulæ virgæ*.

in many antient diplomas. In thoſe places where the landlord received his whole rent in grain, nine buſhels were paid for each *hufe*, and thirty-ſix buſhels for every farm. Such a farm conſiſting of four ſmall *hufes*, is now called a *bauer hufe*, and muſt pay its proportion or contingent to the public contribution. The *hinds*, or *adſcripti glebæ*, had likewiſe their portion: the *ritter* or gentleman, on giving them cottages or dwellings, granted them ſuch a portion of ground in the neighbourhood, as required two buſhels of ſeed for annual uſe. The prieſt's portion was only equal to that of the farmer, viz. four ſmall *hufes*; and as in ſuch a diviſion of the country there remained many nooks and ſpots, theſe were conſecrated to eccleſiaſtic uſes. The woods were alſo divided in the ſame manner, and even the open fiſh-ponds in the country had their appointed proprietors.

Under ſuch a diviſion of the land, which, in moſt places, is ſunk into total diſuſe and even oblivion, a village could maintain a much greater number of men than at preſent. What was requiſite for the ſupport of a *ritter* or gentleman, I have already mentioned; the farmer maintained himſelf by the induſtrious improvement of his ſmall pittance; and as for the hinds, or *adſcripti glebæ*, theſe were of two ſorts. Some had employment with dwellings under the lord, and others lived with the farmers.

mers. The latter built themſelves ſmall habitations near or upon their lands. While the parents were able to work, ſuch of their children as were married lived in thoſe houſes; but if the parents gave up the land to their children, they retired to thoſe houſes, as hereditary receſſes for decrepitude; and where, if neceſſary, their iſſue maintained them. On the father of family's portioning his daughter, the principal part was a cow and fodder for the firſt year; the young couple had likewiſe the firſt harveſt. They bred a hog and a few geeſe, which fed on the common; ſo that when autumn came on, the poor fellow had ſomething to kill, and ſalt for his winter ſtore. The other boors lived on their employs, pretty much in the ſame manner, and conſequently were not without a competent ſubſiſtence.

I know ſeveral gentlemen who have been at the trouble of viſiting the houſes of the poorer ſort of people throughout the country, and obſerving their manner of living, their food, and apparel; and they all affirm that the preſent times are greatly altered for the worſe: and what makes the caſe ſtill harder, no order of men is in reality a gainer by the alteration; but as for the peaſantry, their condition is become much more grievous. This, I think, might be remedied, by making it eaſier for the poor to keep cattle, as one great means of their domeſtic ſubſiſtence.

You ſee I have been very ingenuous, if not too minute, my dear friend, in giving you my remarks on the preſent ſtate of agriculture in the duchy of Mecklenburg. It is true, theſe remarks are not particular to this province, but may be applied to moſt parts of Germany, where the miſerable condition of the peaſants, who are held in the moſt abject villenage, prevents them from making the ſame improvements in tillage, as we obſerve in thoſe countries where the poor enjoy in common with the reſt of mankind, the bleſſings of liberty. But I would not have you infer from hence, that no improvements have been made here in cultivation, and in the art of meliorating the ſoil. On the contrary, there have been many; and baron Dewitz, in particular, ever ſince he has been in the adminiſtration, has given the greateſt encouragement to ſuch ſchemes as any way tend to improve the ſeveral branches of rural œconomy.

But in no one article has he been more aſſiduous than in endeavouring to drain the lakes and marſhes, with which this part of Mecklenburg abounds. There are actually a great number of men employed in draining a part of the lake of Strelitz, and in cutting out a navigable canal, by which he intends to open a communication with the Elbe. This is a noble undertaking; and to his praiſe it muſt be ſaid, that he has ſteadily perſevered in it, notwithſtanding the oppoſition of the gentlemen

in the feveral departments of government, who all objected to it, as too expenſive, impracticable, and uſeleſs. They ſaid he came from England, with his head full of ſchemes, which would never do in this country. But now they begin to open their eyes, and to think that if they had fewer lakes and marſhes, it would be more advantageous to the prince, and happier for the ſubject.

Where the population of a country is not very conſiderable, lakes and marſhes generally remain as they are: but when it increaſes, and the adminiſtration bends its attention to that weighty point, on which the power and proſperity of ſtates may be ſaid in a great meaſure to depend, nothing more nearly relates to the comfortable dwelling and ſubſiſtence of the inhabitants, than to procure a more commodious and fertile ſurface; and then of courſe the draining of lakes and marſhes is taken in hand. That a country with many lakes and marſhes is but thinly inhabited, is a concluſion verified by experience, in all nations where the arts and ſciences have made any progreſs. In France, England, and the populous provinces in Germany, as Saxony, Franconia, the Palatinate, the Duchy of Magdeburg, Bavaria, and Lower Auſtria, there are few or no lakes or moraſſes of any extent: whereas in Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Ruſſia, and in thoſe parts of Germany where population runs low, as in

Holſtein, Pomerania, &c. they are by much too common. The duchy of Mecklenburg abounds with them; from ſome high grounds one may ſee ſix, ſeven, and even more. Now, where they are ſo numerous, it is certainly moſt beneficial for a ſtate to form as many of them as poſſible into ſtreams and canals for the improvement of inland navigation, and to drain the remainder. The draining of lakes and moraſſes not only ſupports population, but is a real aggrandizement of a ſtate, infinitely preferable to conqueſts, for it diffuſeth bleſſings and proſperity over a country. Draining employs a great number of hands, and by the acquiſition of fertile land the products of the country are multiplied; now theſe are conſiderable advantages, which would compenſate for the charges of the undertaking, without any other view. But the addition of ſubjects ariſing from this increaſe of land, would ſoon augment the public revenue.

I have had ſeveral converſations with the engineer employed in draining lakes and moraſſes in this country; he is a very able, communicative man; ſo that I have had an opportunity of knowing from him in what manner this operation is conducted.

The nature of the lake having been narrowly examined, they proceed to as exact a knowledge of its bottom, whether it be muddy and earthy, or rocky and ſtoney: in the laſt caſe it will not

not anſwer the charges of draining; though for an inland lake to have a rocky ground, would be ſomething very extraordinary, if not impoſſible in the nature of things; for in the ſpace of ſome hundreds of years, ſuch a quantity of earthy and ſlimy particles muſt have ſubſided, as to cover it with a fat and fruitful ſoil, to the depth of a yard; and ſuch a depth is ſufficient for cultivation.

The depth of the lake, and the poſſibility of draining it, are conſidered in every light; the draining a lake of a very great depth being impracticable. An exact ſurvey is likewiſe taken of the ſlope of the neighbouring country, for determining which way the water from the lake is to take its courſe; likewiſe whether the water can be carried off only by trenches, or whether engines muſt be procured for raiſing it out of the greateſt depths: and this being done, the depths to be filled up and brought to a level with the other ground. Beſides examining into the poſſibility of the draining, and forming a plan of the method of conducting it, another important article is a juſt eſtimate of the expenditures. Both the plan and the eſtimate paſs through the hands of ſeveral perſons well acquainted with ſuch works, never committing ſo important a concern to one ſingle man, however famous for his capacity. Farther, the plan and eſtimate are ſhewn to proper perſons, deſiring their opinions

opinions and exceptions; and where they ſeem weighty, the projector is to anſwer them, and ſubmit his defence to farther objections. After the ſcheme is approved, the undertaker engages to do it completely at the loweſt rate, and at the ſame time gives ſecurity for the due performance of the contract. He then ſets about his work in the following manner:

Firſt, he ſinks ſome broad and deep trenches, according to the ſlope of the country from the lake to the river or brook into which the drain is to be carried: theſe trenches being finiſhed, and the diſpoſition of them with regard to the ſlope very carefully examined, the little ſpace left between the trenches and the lake is bored through, which gives an outlet to the water. As the water decreaſes in the lake, the trenches are carried farther towards the middle, in order to form the main trench, which tranſverſes the lake; and whilſt theſe trenches advance, a dam is made againſt any irruption of the water; till things are ready for the dam being bored through, to make a farther diſcharge. This is the general method by which all the water is carried off. But in caſe of meeting with a very deep bottom in the middle, from which the water cannot be drained by the trenches, without making them of an enormous depth, the water is raiſed by engines; and of theſe the beſt are ſuch as work both by wind and horſes. Next to the main trench through the lake, which is ge-

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nerally a perch in depth and breadth, another of ſomewhat ſmaller dimenſions is carried round the whole lake; and about every thouſand paces there is a croſs drain, all terminating in the main channel.

The draining of marſhes is conducted much in the ſame manner as that of lakes; but here I have ſeen the operation performed only on what we call moor or turf grounds: theſe are moſt eaſily drained by carrying trenches through thoſe grounds, when the diſpoſition of the country is ſuch, that the water can be conveyed to ſome neighbouring ſtream. The firſt thing they do, is to carry a ditch to the middle of the moor in a direct line, its depth and breadth adapted to the extent and wetneſs of the ground, and thus to the ſuppoſed quantity which is to be drained off. Every ſix, eight, or ten perches, as the ground is more or leſs ſwampy, croſs trenches on both ſides are drawn in a direct line, and communicating on both ſides with the main trench. But in caſe of water coming from any neighbouring eminences, they dig a trench round the whole ground as a reſervoir; and this likewiſe communicates with the main trench. Theſe trenches are made wider at the top than at the bottom, that the bank may be the leſs liable to give way, and thus ſpoil the drains. It is likewiſe cuſtomary, for the better ſecurity of the work, to ſet pales or hedges along the banks;

oſier

oſier twigs will anſwer this purpoſe, ſetting them croſs-wiſe, and about four or five feet above the water.

If theſe twigs are topped the firſt year, ſo that they may not hold much wind, and thus ſhake the roots, they will thrive very well and ſtrengthen the bank; and if theſe oſiers are not to ſtand, they may be hewn down at the end of five or ſix years, as by that time the roots having ſtruck deep, will afford a good binding to the ground. The earth from theſe trenches being generally very good, is ſpread on the grounds that are to be drained; but the ſods, turf, and moſs clods, if the turf cannot be uſed for fuel, are turned about or placed in heaps, in order to their quicker putrefaction for manure as above. In caſe the draining of the water into ſome natural receptacle be not practicable, at leaſt not under a very great expence, then they have recourſe to ſinking ponds or reſervoirs in ſome neighbouring bottom; and to theſe they carry all the trenches.

Thoſe ponds may likewiſe be of uſe as a fiſhery; but if even the ſinking ſuch a pond be too chargeable, there ſtill remains an expedient, which is of good effect, and chiefly if the moors are not too wet and marſhy. It is the nature of moors in general, that beneath the turf or moſs there is a loam which hinders the moiſture from penetrating; and this indeed is what makes the marſh, and cauſes the luxuri-

ant

ant growth of the turf and moſs; but this loam or clay is only a ſtratum, and far from being of an immenſe depth; under it is, generally, a ſand, or ſome other ſtoney or looſe ſoil. Here reaſon readily informs us that a middling moraſs may be drained by perforating the clay, and thus making way for the moiſture to penetrate. In order to this, a pit is dug in the deepeſt part of the moor, till they come below the obſtructing clay, and meet with ſuch a ſpungy ſtratum, as, in all appearance, will be ſufficient to imbibe the moiſture of the marſh above it. Into this pit the ebbing of the moraſs is conveyed though a trench; and both the trench and the pit are filled up after the firſt drain with large broad ſtones, ſetting them edge-wiſe, ſo as to leave interſtices for carrying off the water: then ſuch ſtones are laid over breadth-wiſe, and theſe covered with a looſe earth, like that on the ſurface. Where no ſuch ſtones are to be had, ſtrong piles are rammed down the ſides of the trench, and broad boards laid a-croſs, and theſe are covered with earth to a height fit for culture. This is a matter of no great expence, the pit being as near the moraſs as the water will permit, and the trenches but ſhort. Thus they have a drain unperceived, which leaves the ſurface of the trenches for the plough; and in middling marſhes, eſpecially in ſuch moors as are only wet and damp, this method,

thod, tho' ſomething ſlow, never fails of taking effect, and many tracts are made ſerviceable to the farmer or grazier. So much for their method of draining the marſhes: I ſhall now take ſome notice of the proceſs they follow to improve them.

When a marſh is ſucceſsfully drained, the nature of the ſoil is examined; for as there are marſhy grounds of a different nature, ſo are different means required for rendering the newly recovered marſhes and moors fit for huſbandry. This examination is performed by lixiviation, in order afterwards to evaporate the lixivium, and judge of the nature of the ſoil from the quality of the remaining ſalts. Whatever be its nature, methods may be found for meliorating it: even thoſe marſhy tracts, which abounding in vitriolic and ferruginous particles are in themſelves the moſt ungrateful, may without great difficulty be rendered uſeful. I ſhall, however, take notice only of moors, as the moſt general kind of marſhy and wet ſoils. Now theſe always conſiſt of a turf, which is more or leſs intermixed with earth. The more the turf is mixed with earth, the leſs ſerviceable for fuel, but the more eaſily rendered arable; and though the turf be of the moſt combuſtible kind, they are not diſcouraged, for, by the help of perſeverance and induſtry, this turns out the very beſt and moſt fruitful land.

I have been told that the burning of moors uſed formerly to paſs for the beſt method, but ſince the late improvements in rural knowledge, it is fallen pretty much into diſuſe. It requires a great deal of wood or ſhrubery, and the moors muſt be ſet on fire two or three times or oftener, before the flame ſpreads ſo as to take its full effect; and though the aſhes may be thought greatly to contribute to the improvement of the ground, how far it really does may be inferred only from wood aſhes. Turf-aſh, as a chymical analyſis of it ſhews, is not of a quality to contribute much towards fertilizing the ground. This work, in ſhort, is attended with a great deal of labour and trouble; the benefits are by no means anſwerable; and, at preſent, they can put their fuel to a better uſe than laviſhing it away to little or no purpoſe.

Dunging likewiſe is not looked upon as the right mean for meliorating moors; ſuch grounds in themſelves abound in manures. Turf, when putrified by degrees, which is the never-failing conſequence of its being left for deſiccation, affords plenty of dung. It is ſomething very different that moors require; experience ſhewing that dung anſwers the end as little as the ſheep-fold. The plain truth is, that dunging ſuch grounds makes them rather worſe than better.

Some

Some hold marl to be excellent for improving mooriſh grounds; and it muſt be allowed to be of ſome uſe in a moſſy ſoil; yet even in theſe, and much leſs in turf and moor-grounds, it is far from being always the beſt manure. The chief uſe of marl ſeems to be for making a ſtiff ground looſe and ſpongy; but this is a melioration of which moor-grounds have no need; what they require is, that the moiſture, which preys on the tender roots of the ſhrubs, the ſedge and moſs, and converts them into a black earth, be drawn off; and for this ſand is by ſome ingenious perſons reckoned the beſt medium.

You may think it ſtrange that ſand ſhould contribute to improve moor-grounds; but we are not yet ſufficiently acquainted with its nature. In ſome circumſtances, it is not only diſſoluble, but likewiſe of great uſe for developing other bodies. Is it not ſand which chiefly conſtitutes the firmneſs of mortar? and how could this be, if it was not partly diſſolved, and its nature as it were changed by this new impregnation? Sand has alſo another remarkable property, ſufficiently known to thoſe who are converſant with mineralogy; namely, marble or lime-ſtone are not of themſelves fuſible in fire; but on adding ſome ſand or quartz, this mixture becomes not only fuſible, but even liquifies much ſooner than the ſand or quartz ſeparately.

In

In order, therefore, to make a moor-ground fit for huſbandry, it is covered with ſand at leaſt to two inches deep. Then the ground is ploughed to the depth of a quarter of a yard, that the ſand may be well mixed with the uppermoſt earth. After this, it muſt reſt a year, during which time the turf rots, and becomes changed into a good black earth. It is ſeldom they are at any great charge for bringing ſand, there being generally loam or clay under the turf, and under that ſand; ſo that in the very making of the trenches or pits for draining the moraſſes, there will be little difficulty in getting as much ſand as will ſuffice for meliorating the ſoil. When the ground, thus thoroughly mixed with the ſand, has reſted a year, it is ploughed, and ſowed with grain; yet only half the proportionate quantity of ſeed need be uſed, and the harveſt will be found to exceed expectation. Theſe moor-grounds may then either be turned into corn-fields, or into meadows, ſowing them with clover and graſs ſeeds; and in both caſes they will anſwer ſo well, as in a few years to repay with intereſt all the charges beſtowed on their improvement.

You ſee I have been at ſome pains to pick up what relates to the improvements of farming in this country; I wiſh I could ſend you more particulars of this kind, knowing that to a perſon of your ſenſe they muſt afford as

much utility and pleaſure as deſcriptions of courts and palaces. In my travels, I like to ſee and hear every thing; to view the cuſtoms and manners of the ruſtics, as well as thoſe of the higher claſs; and to let nothing eſcape my obſervation. The amuſements of the *grand monde*, which we are ſo fond of reading, are oftentimes very trifling, and of but little uſe to the public. The brilliancy of a court-ball or the vanity of a maſquerade are not of ſo much importance to me, as the converſation of a farmer well verſed in huſbandry, who acquaints me with ſome new invention, that may tend to the improvement of rural œconomy.

I was in company the other day with a gentleman farmer, who is juſtly reckoned a very ſenſible man. Among other topics he fell upon the ſubject of the leaves of trees, and began to lament, that while fodder for the cattle often fails, and the farmers have not ſufficient dung for their grounds, they ſuffer the leaves to fall and rot on the ground, without thinking of applying them to either of thoſe uſes. The wiſe and gracious Creator, he ſaid, had not appointed the production of leaves only as an ornament to the earth, or as a neceſſary mean for the growth of thoſe vegetables, ſince there are other good purpoſes to which they might be applied, did we but take pains to collect them before they wither.

First, he ſaid, that they may be uſed as fodder for cattle: but for this uſe they muſt be gathered a little before they begin to fall, carefully turned and dried like hay; after which, if ſecured from the wet and damp, they are eaſily kept the winter through. This is beſt done in the neighbourhood of large woods, as the gathering the leaves will not coſt much. Of theſe dried leaves, cows ſeem to be very fond; and there can be no better and cheaper fodder for preſerving the ſheep in a hard winter.

In France and the upper parts of Germany which are woody, this uſe of leaves is common, and of infinite benefit; for the leſſer farmers in thoſe parts not having much other or better fodder, owe the very ſubſiſtence of their cattle to it. Birch, oak, elm, and willow leaves are given to the ſheep and goats; and beech, aſh, and hornbeam, to kine. Vine leaves are peculiarly excellent for cows and ſheep, as giving plenty of good milk, and a very agreeable taſte to the butter made of it.

It ſhould be a rule with farmers, that nothing be loſt that is of any uſe. Now in the woody parts of Mecklenburg, the ground in autumn is frequently ſeen covered with leaves, rotting; and if you paſs that way only in the enſuing winter, you ſee the poor ſheep and cows creeping about their walks, and half periſhing for want of fodder, with which

the leaves of the preceding autumn might have plentifully ſupplied them.

There are likewiſe many other uſes of leaves; for inſtance they make excellent litter. The leaves of all kinds of trees indiſcriminately ſerve for this purpoſe, but eſpecially the leaves of pines, their ſmell preſerving the air ſweet and wholeſome in the cow-houſes. In ſeveral parts of the electorate of Brandenburg, only pine-leaves are uſed for this end; and it is very ſeldom that any ſickneſs among the cattle is known there.

Another great advantage is dunging of land; the leaves mixed with earth, by reaſon of their ſaline parts, make an excellent manure, and ſtill better after ſerving as litter. He who uſes leaf dung may be ſure he is not ſowing his ground with weeds. Leaves of every kind are good for manuring, but eſpecially the abovementioned of pines, the juices of which increaſe the ſtrength of the manure. The dung of leaves is in general far better than that of wheat, barley, or rye ſtraw: the leaf having more vegetable juices in it, cauſes a more uniform and temperate fermentation in the earth; and thus its effects are likewiſe more laſting.

Leaves are alſo of a very great uſe to gardeners for their beds, as a ſuccedaneum to horſe-dung or turf; only they muſt be trodden very cloſe on the bed, and properly moiſtened. This leaf manure heats gradually; and its heat is more equal and continued than that of horſe-

horſe-dung: there is likewiſe not ſo much danger of the tender plants in the bed being burnt or choaked. The operation of leaves and that of turf are pretty much alike.

In ſome places, particularly in Weſtphalia, the leaves of hard wood, as oak, &c. are uſed for ſmoaking fleſh; and how fit it is for this, the excellency of Weſtphalia hams and ſauſages is a ſufficient proof. Leaves duly dried and prepared may ſupply the place of ſtraw, flocks or feathers for beds, bolſters, and pillows. Nothing can be cheaper for this purpoſe, and at the ſame time nothing more ſweet and healthy. But here the leaves muſt be a little moiſtened, as this makes them tougher; ſo that they do not ſo ſoon break into duſt by frequent ſhaking. Tho' they are chiefly commodious for ſuch poor as want bedding, yet in Upper Germany even the richeſt have a leaf ſack under their bed inſtead of ſtraw, as being ſofter and cleaner than ſtraw, and not cauſing ſo much duſt in making the bed.

Leaves may be put between bottles of wine in binns inſtead of ſaw-duſt, and particularly when a cellar is dry. They likewiſe ſerve for packing brittle commodities.

Laſtly, oak leaves may be uſed for tanning of leather inſtead of the bark; for the juices of the oak leaf having nearly the like properties as thoſe found in oak bark, their effects on the ſkins are the ſame. The trial is eaſily made: only put ſome oak leaves in-

to water for a little time, and the water will ſtrongly imbibe their qualities, contracting a dark colour and a remarkable aſtringency. This is an important uſe, yet hitherto totally omitted in Mecklenburg. Indeed the only uſe made of leaves is, that the maſters of the glaſs-houſes rake them together and burn them to an aſh, for making green glaſs.

Theſe obſervations on the uſe of leaves ſtruck me very much; and I muſt own I was no leſs pleaſed with what the ſame gentleman communicated to me another time concerning the increaſe of wood for fuel.

It is an eſſential part of good management, ſaid he to me, that the wood growing on an eſtate be kept in a due proportion with the families living on it. To grub up woods in order to make more room for corn, is no leſs detrimental than to plant more wood than the eſtate requires; and he who clears the beſt ſpots, eſpecially ſandy hills, in order to plough them up, hurts his land, the ſand being thereby blown or waſhed into the fruitful vallies. This ſubject, he added, was too extenſive to be diſcuſſed at once; ſo that he ſhould at preſent confine himſelf to fuel wood.

An alder and a birch requires at moſt twenty-five years before it becomes fit for cutting. If older, the ſtem never thrives well afterwards; and if left till it is very old and large, on the cutting of the tree, the root abſolutely dies. From whence

whence he would recommend theſe rules: 1. Not to let fuel wood be above twenty-five years old, as a longer delay would be attended with damage. 2. If, on a computation, it appears that there is a ſufficiency of wood on the eſtate for twenty-five years, the wood is then in a proportionate quantity. If, beſides, there are any heaths from which wind-falls, bruſh-wood, or cuttings of timber or additional wood of any kind may be procured, ſo as to furniſh annually one-fourth part of the fuel, there is then a ſufficiency of wood, when the computation only reaches to eighteen years. 3. If there remain more thickets, theſe may be very profitably aſſarted and turned into paſtures, which will benefit graziery, and conſequently agriculture. If fuel wood can be increaſed without enlarging the ground on which it is to grow, this will be a very conſiderable improvement.

The propereſt way for increaſing wood is to divide the whole ground into certain portions called *cavels**, and then hew all the fuel wood clean off. Experience ſhews, that if the wood be not much above twenty years ſtanding, for one tree that is cut three will ſhoot up; conſequently, the cutting produces ſuch an increaſe, that a *cavel* which the firſt time yielded only a load of wood when cleared,

* The diviſion is made into twenty parts, each of which is called *cavel* or *cabil.*

yields two or three loads. To promote this increaſe, birches are left ſtanding for ſeed; and the ſeed dropping, young trees ſhoot up in places where none grew before. The ground which birches delight in, is indeed very moſſy; and this may obſtruct the growth of the ſeeds: but the Creator has provided even for this; birch-ſeed being ſo extremely ſmall as eaſily to fall through the moſs on the earth, into which it ſtrikes its root. It may likewiſe be aſſiſted by digging the ground, or even ploughing it; but if this be thought too much trouble, it is only driving hogs about ſpring or autumn into the *cavels* that are cleared. Thus by grubbing up the ground, and particularly the moſs, the ſeed meets with a looſe earth, which greatly forwards its taking root. Likewiſe, in harveſt, when the ſwine have grubbed up the ground, it will be proper to procure birch-ſeeds and ſtrew them here. If this be done the firſt year after the clearing, the birches produced by thoſe ſeeds will be ſeen to thrive ſurpriſingly, even in places where none have grown before.

The greateſt inconveniency of *cavels* is the loſs of much paſture-ground, as a *cavel* muſt not be touched, at leaſt, for three years; otherwiſe, inſtead of trees there will be only dwarfs. Hence it is of great importance how the *cavels* are laid out in places where the paſture is

ſcanty,

ſcanty, that the wood may be increaſed, and yet nothing loſt of the ground.

Certain experience teaches, that in all places, trees when cut at the height of four feet from the ground ſhoot again, firs alone excepted. A beech or alder, a yok-elm, an aſpin and a crab, cut at the height of four feet, ſhoot out three or four ſtrong twigs, which in the ſpace of ſome years become as ſturdy trees, as if they had grown out of the earth at the bottom of the ſtem; ſo that all one loſes by this manner of clearing the *cavels*, is only, that the ſeed yields fewer new trees: but, on the other hand, there is a yearly ſaving of the fourth part, which otherwiſe would be loſt; and a farmer muſt know that the balance herein is greatly in his favour. In clearing the *cavels* be it obſerved, 1. That the firſt trees intended to be cut be not very old, elſe the ſtems die. 2. That the cutting be in due time, before the ſap begins to riſe plentifully, elſe the tree ſeeds, and eſpecially the birch. 3. That the cutting be from beneath, or upwards, that there may be no fiſſure or chaſm in the ſtem for the rain-water to ſettle in, and thus prey on the ſtem. 4. That on a ſtem being cut for the ſecond time, the new twigs be lopped off ſo, that the new buds expected may not ſhoot out from the old ſtem, but from the ends of the twigs. Thus the fuel-wood may be increaſed, without loſing any thing of the paſture-ground, and,

and, at the ſame time, a fence is provided for the cattle againſt the ſeverity of the winter.

Among the articles of rural œconomy which merit the attention of the farmer and country-gentleman, I muſt rank the cultivation of bees; an article, however, greatly neglected in moſt parts of the duchy of Mecklenburg. This is the more inexcuſable, as the rich proviſion of thoſe materials which compoſe wax and honey, may unqueſtionably be reckoned among the innumerable benefits which the Creator has beſtowed on the inhabitants of this country. Their fields, their woods, heaths, meadows, and gardens, never fail in their reſpective ſeaſons of yielding a ſuperabundance of melleous farina and juices on bloſſoms, flowers, and plants; and thus as it were, call them to an induſtrious cultivation of wax and honey. But theſe advantages are greatly neglected: their ſheep, indeed, they take care to ſhear, but more to the benefit of other countries than their own; whereas they ſuffer the ingredients for wax and honey, with which this country abounds, to run intirely to waſte: a conduct the more abſurd, as they ſend at the ſame time no ſmall ſums out of the country for honey, and ſtill greater for wax. They would think a perſon highly culpable in neglecting to procure labourers for getting in the ſeveral crops from the field, the meadow, and the orchard, and in ſuffering ſuch valuable gifts

gifts of the divine goodneſs to periſh; yet they can neglect their crops of wax and honey, which, if not of abſolute neceſſity, are conducive to health, and make a part of the conveniencies of life. There are but few farms in Mecklenburg that might not bring in much more than a hundred rix-dollars a year in wax and honey; but moſt parts offer much larger advantage to the cultivation here recommended.

Some ſay they have tried all manner of ways to keep bees, but to no purpoſe; the country being little fit for this branch of rural œconomy. But the following facts plainly refute this objection.

Carwitz, on the confines of the marquiſate of Brandenburg, is a country which, by reaſon of its ſandineſs, but more eſpecially by the many large waters, ſeems to give as little encouragement for bees as any part of Mecklenburg; and they who firſt ſet about breeding theſe induſtrious inſects, indeed loſt their labour as is frequently the caſe in the firſt undertakings: yet this prejudice at preſent no longer ſubſiſts; the Rev. Mr. Stoy, having for ſome years paſt ſhewn that this cultivation, though in a disfavourable country, turns to very good account, if rightly managed.

The Reverend Mr. Colberg, a perſon eminent both for parts and piety, is likewiſe known to have procured a very conſiderable

able quantity of wax and honey for ſale, beſides his home conſumption, which was not ſmall: yet this worthy perſon, who ſpoke from long experience, does not deny but very conſiderable improvements might be made in this article. Theſe and other ſuch inſtances are a manifeſt proof, that the duchy of Mecklenburg might, under a right management, be annually enriched with a much larger crop of wax and honey. At preſent, the materials or ingredients of thoſe commodities, to the amount of ſome thouſands of rix-dollars, are every year loſt, and in a literal ſenſe trodden under foot, for want of keeping a ſufficient number of bees.

The future prevention of ſo manifeſt a detriment to the country, is not the only motive for a greater attention to the breeding of theſe little animals; but there is likewiſe another conſideration, which hitherto ſeems not to have been regarded; namely, "that numerous ſwarms of "bees continually licking off the ſuperfluous "honey-dew and luſcious juices, muſt be of "an advantage not only to graziery, but to "horticulture, to bloſſoms, to flowers, herbage "and ſeveral kinds of pulſe, as beans, peaſe, "vetches, buck-wheat, &c."

They have a maxim here among the country-people, that "when the bees thrive, the "cattle in the meadows droop and dye; and "vice versâ, when the cattle thrive, the bees "periſh."

"periſh." Now bees thrive in hot dry weather and warm nights, when the flowers and plants copiouſly exude the luſcious juices, which in ſuch ſeaſons are not waſhed away by rains. But ſuch a temperature does not agree with the cattle; and therefore careful farmers give them theraicum, or thruſt down their throat a bit of bread rubbed all over with ſalt, or make uſe of other known preſervatives.

I ſhall not take upon me to charge the honey-juice and the ſaccharine-dew with being of themſelves hurtful to cattle; but this is too certain, that in hot and dry weather, multitudes of viſible and inviſible inſects, ſome venomous, feed on this luſcious dew; and it muſt be allowed, that to eat not only the flowers and herbage tainted by thoſe inſects, but with them innumerable ſwarms of thoſe animalcules, muſt be of very bad conſequence to the health of the cattle. Now theſe evils, if not totally prevented, would be conſiderably abated, when, by the increaſe of bees, theſe noxious inſects ſhall be deprived of their aliment.

As to the bloſſoms, flowers, herbage, grain, &c. the damages done by this vermin, when, nouriſhed by the beforementioned juices, they have attained their full ſtrength, is more manifeſt.

To prevent this miſchief, bees, I am well informed by experienced perſons, would be

infinite ſervice. Did the people of this country allow them more of their attention, they would with more humble gratitude obſerve the divine goodneſs, in providing a remedy in nature againſt every thing that can be prejudicial to the human ſpecies.

Beſides the damage done by inſects thus ſubſiſting on the honey-juices to ſo many trees, flowers, plants, and grains, theſe juices are in themſelves very detrimental to the vegetables. In a continuance of heat and drought, the aqueous parts evaporate from the juice; ſo that they become viſcid or clammy, and adhere like a kind of varniſh; the conſequences of which to the vegetables, are in ſome meaſure as a ſtoppage of the perſpiration in animals. This viſcous juice conglutinates the ſmall leaves in the heart of the flowers and other vegetables, ſtops up the filaments, ſpiracles, and ducts of the plants; and thus hinders their growth, as not only obſtructing the free perſpiration of the plants, but excluding from them the freſh air, that balſam ſo neceſſary for their thriving. A microſcope plainly ſhews the ſaid juices in hot and dry weather ſettled on the leaves, flowers, &c. like varniſh; and the air being thus excluded, their perſpirative power ceaſes, the bloſſoms drop off, the flowers, herbs, and ſcions, hang their heads, droop, and wither.

You

You will aſk me, perhaps, what can the licking * of a parcel of little bees do in ſuch a large extent of country? I anſwer you by two obſervations. Firſt, experience teaches us that honey-dew for the moſt part falls on one country more than another, and frequently only on ſome particular trees and plants; and what is ſtill more remarkable, one ſide of the tree ſhall be totally dry, and the other as copiouſly bedewed. It is but ſeldom that it covers any large ſpace of ground. But the bees know the ſweet parts; they have an admirable ſcent; and the leaſt breath of wind immediately informs them to what quarter they are to direct their flight. Many inſtances might be brought of theſe inſects knowing their feeding-place even when above a mile from their dwelling. Before the vetches begin to bloſſom, bees are ſeen to ſwarm about them, eagerly licking the luſcious moiſture from ſome browniſh ſpots which are obſervable under every joint or ſprig of the ſtem; and though ſuch a field of vetches be above a mile from the bees, yet they make their way thither in multitudes; and in ſtill weather their humming proclaims the pleaſure they receive from this occupation.

But that theſe little animals with their licking do more than an airy ſpeculatiſt may be-

* Bees are found to lick and not ſuck, as is commonly apprehended.

lieve,

lieve, will be granted, on conſidering that their numbers and indefatigable diligence make up for what is wanting in their ſize. Thirty or forty thouſand induſtrious bees in the beginning of June are but a middling nurſery; and only ſuppoſe fifty ſuch nurſeries in one place, theſe may perform a great deal; and that they actually do, is evident. A good nurſery generally yields eight, ten, and even fourteen pots of pure honey. I'll ſet down ten pots, and reckon ten more for the ſummer conſumption of ſuch a nurſery, for the feeding their numerous breed till they are able to earn their livelihood, likewiſe the ſubſiſtence of the male drones, who, inſtead of working with the bees, live upon the labour of the reſt, and conſume their honey.

The contents of theſe twenty pots of honey muſt have ſufficed for varniſhing an inconceivable number of plants and flowers; but how much more as the bees of the fifty nurſeries have collectively licked a thouſand pots? There are a variety of places in this country where at leaſt a hundred of ſuch nurſeries could be ſecured from the winter. Now, if this honey-juice, which in time becomes tenacious and detrimental, be licked away in the dew ſeaſon, all the before-mentioned evils are prevented; and a ſufficient number of ſuch nurſeries diſperſed over the country, would greatly contribute to the thriving of the bloſ-

ſoms

ſoms, flowers, and even of that main neceſſary, grain.

If theſe particulars were univerſally known, and duly attended to, the people of this country would uſe every poſſible means for ſtocking it with as many ſwarms of bees as it will bear; more eſpecially as the Mecklenburg honey is not inferior to that of moſt other countries: the mead made of it, when rightly prepared, and kept to a proper age, beſides its exquiſite taſte and flavour, agrees with thoſe who drink it, better than moſt foreign wines. The Mecklenburg wax may be bleached as white as any other; and, probably, would yield as good a light as the wax candles which they purchaſe, at ſo high a price, from abroad. It might be made into ſealing-wax of all colours, for the law offices: and the apothecaries and ſurgeons, likewiſe, might ſupply themſelves with wax for their various uſes, not only at a cheaper rate, but of a better quality, and without adulteration.

But it is time for me to have done with this ſubject, leſt you ſhould think I am going to turn farmer; though it is a title I ſhould be proud of, for I know of no ſtation of life ſo happy.

Hoc erat in votis: modus agri non ita magnus
Hortus ubi, &c.

I often wiſhed I had a farm;
A decent dwelling, ſnug and warm;
A garden, and a ſpring as pure
As cryſtal, running by my door;
Beſides a little ancient grove,
Where at my leiſure I might rove.
——— Oh! when, again,
Shall I behold the rural plain?
And when with books of ſages deep,
Sequeſtered eaſe, and gentle ſleep,
In ſweet oblivion, bliſsful balm!
The buſy cares of life becalm?

Francis Hor. book 2. Sat. 6.

How often is human life ſpent in wiſhes, which terminate in nothing! But this I hope will not be the caſe of my wiſhes for the continuance of your proſperity.

I am,

Dear Sir, yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER XV.

Strelitz, November 3, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

THE duchy of Mecklenburg is divided into the following diſtricts, viz. the ancient duchy of Mecklenburg, the principalities of Wenden, Schwerin, and Ratzeburg, the county of Schwerin, and the lordſhips of Roſtock and Stargard.

The ancient duchy of Mecklenburg is ſituated on the Baltic; it is bounded on the land-ſide by the duchy of Saxe Lawenburg, the county and principality of Schwerin, and the lordſhip of Roſtock. It derives its name from the ancient city of Mecklenburg, now only a village, and contains the following towns and remarkable places; viz. Wiſmar, Mecklenburg, Gadebuſch, Greveſmuhl, New Buckow, Kropelien, Wangern, Neuenburg, Crammon, Groſs Eixen, Borzow, Bolenburg, and Daſſow.

The principality of Wenden forms the greater part of the dominions of Mecklenburg. Its name is derived from the nation of the Venedi,

or Wendi, who inhabited this country before the Saxon war in the 12th century. The boundaries of this principality are Pomerania, the lordſhip of Stargard, the marquiſate of Brandenburg, the duchy of Lunenburg, the county and principality of Schwerin, and the lordſhip of Roſtock. The principal towns and remarkable places on the eaſt ſide are Guſtrow, Waldenhagen, Tetterow, Grubenhagen, Nienkahlden, Malchin, Ivenack, Stavenhagen, Robel, Pentzlin, Wredenhagen, Wahren, Malchow, Plaue, Goldberg, Krackow, and Dobbertin; on the weſt ſide lie Sternberg, Parchim, Lubitz, Nieuſtadt, Grabow, Eldena, and Dömitz.

The principality of Schwerin is bounded by the ancient duchy of Mecklenburg, the principality of Wenden, the county of Schwerin, and the lordſhip of Roſtock. It was formerly a biſhopric, founded in 1170 by Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony. By the peace of Weſtphalia it was erected into a temporal principality, in favour of the dukes of Mecklenburg, together with the biſhopric of Ratzeburg, to indemnify thoſe princes for having ceded the city of Wiſmar to the crown of Sweden. The principal towns are Butzow, Niencloſter, Bruel, and Rhenen.

The principality of Ratzeburg is ſituated between the duchy of Saxe Lawenburg, the county of Schwerin, and the territory of the city

city of Lubeck. It had been formerly a biſhopric, founded by the above-mentioned Henry the Lion, in 1154; but, by the treaty of Weſtphalia, was ſecularized in favour of the houſe of Mecklenburg. The only remarkable place belonging to it is the town of Ratzeburg.

The county of Schwerin takes its name from the capital of the whole country. It is bounded by the ancient duchy of Mecklenburg, the principality of Wenden, and the duchy of Lunenburg. Beſides Schwerin, the capital, it contains the following towns, Criwitz, Redewin, Wittenburg, and Boitzenburg.

The lordſhip of Roſtock is ſo denominated from the city of that name, ſituated on the Baltic. Its boundaries are Pomerania, the principalities of Wenden and Schwerin, and the ancient duchy of Mecklenburg. The principal towns in this diſtrict are, Roſtock, Warnemunde, Schwan, Oldenkahlden, Dargun, Gnoyen, Marlow, and Ribbenitz.

The lordſhip of Stargard takes its name from the ancient town of Stargard. It is bounded by Pomerania, the marquiſate of Brandenburg, and the principality of Wenden. In this diſtrict are contained the following towns, Old Strelitz, New Strelitz, New Brandenburg, Stargard, Furſtenberg, Waldeck, Friedland, Mirow, and Nimerow.

Such is the diviſion of the duchy of Mecklenburg: I ſhall not at preſent give you a deſcription of the reſpective towns, becauſe, in my tour thro' the country, I have hitherto made, and ſhall continue to make, it a rule to deſcribe thoſe which are worthy a traveller's notice.

The inhabitants of this country are chiefly of Saxon extraction. Their language is a dialect of Lower Saxony, called Plat Deutſch, which is neither Dutch nor High German, but partakes of both: upon comparing it with Junius's Anglo-Saxon goſpels, and other Anglo-Saxon books, it is found to retain more of that ancient tongue, than either the Dutch or High German.

The people are divided into peaſants, burghers, clergy, and nobility. The peaſants are in a ſtate of villanage, or *adſcripti glebæ*, as I have mentioned to you in a former letter. The burghers are poſſeſſed of certain privileges, by means of which they are united with the nobility, and depend immediately on the ſovereign. The clergy have alſo their particular immunities, and are governed by ſix biſhops or ſuperintendants, namely, thoſe of Schwerin, Guſtrow, Parchim, Strelitz, and two for Roſtock. At this laſt city is held a conſiſtory or ſpiritual court, formed by the twelve miniſters of the town, in conjunction with the ſuperintendant. The nobility are a very reſpectable body, poſſeſſed of great privileges, which,

which, after many long conteſts with the dukes, have been at length ſettled definitively in 1755.

The inhabitants of Mecklenburg are almoſt all proteſtants of the confeſſion of Augſburg, which was early received throughout this duchy. They are very zealous in their religion, and remarkably watchful againſt any innovation in the eſtabliſhed worſhip. Yet the Roman Catholics have a chapel at Schwerin, and the Calviniſts a meeting houſe at Butzow, the only places in this country where the public exerciſe of any other than the Lutheran religion is tolerated.

The cuſtoms and manners of the Mecklenburghers are much the ſame as thoſe of the other natives of Germany, of which I have given you an account in a former letter. They are patient, docile, ſincere, and hoſpitable; but, like moſt northern nations, too much addicted to jollity and good cheer. Their virtues, however, far over-balance their failings. The peaſants are laborious, and make very good ſoldiers. Among the burghers there are ſome few who acquire conſiderable fortunes by trade, and others who are conſpicuous in the polite arts. The nobility have produced great numbers of brave officers, and able ſtateſmen; ſeveral of whom have diſtinguiſhed themſelves in foreign ſervice.

This country being ſeated on the Baltic, and remarkable for its fertility, one might naturally imagine its trade and manufactures to be in a flouriſhing condition; but the inhabitants, by a kind of fatality, have been very neglectful in making a proper uſe of the materials of trade, and in applying themſelves to the arts and manufactures. Their country produces plenty of wool, flax, hemp, hides; yet little or none is manufactured, but all ſent abroad, and chiefly to Hamburg, from whence they receive manufactured commodities. In the towns they have few artificers, and moſt of them foreigners. The greater part of the corn, the ſtaple of the land, is alſo exported, which enhances the price to the inhabitants. It is true, duke Frederick William encouraged a colony of French refugees to ſettle and erect manufactures of cloth, leather, ſnuff, hats, ſtockings, &c. at Butzow in 1703; and the ſame encouragement was given by duke Adolph Frederick II. at Strelitz; yet neither of thoſe ſchemes anſwered expectation. But baron Dewitz has ſhewn himſelf very zealous for promoting the manufactures of this country, and encouraging artificers from all the neighbouring parts, eſpecially from Brandenburg, to ſettle in the duke's dominions. His endeavours have met with ſome ſucceſs, and, as I mentioned to you in a former letter, the duke's troops are cloathed from head to foot with the manufactures

factures of Mecklenburg. Commercial ſchemes are alſo talked of in the duchy of Schwerin; but I know not whether they will ever be carried into execution: ſuch as that of digging a canal from the town of Wiſmar to the lake of Schwerin, and making the Stoer and Elde navigable, ſo as to eſtabliſh a communication between the North Sea and the Baltic, without paſſing through the Sound. New harbours might alſo be opened on the Baltic; for there are only two at preſent, Roſtock and Wiſmar, the laſt of which is in the poſſeſſion of the Swedes. It would be no difficult matter, for inſtance, to make another at New Buckow, and a third at Ribbenitz; the advantages of which would greatly overbalance the expence.

But let the princes give ever ſo much encouragement to manufactures, unleſs they have the concurrence of the nobility, their endeavours, I am afraid, will prove ineffectual. Now the nobility and gentry, which is here the ſame thing, have a contempt for trade, and are moſt ſtrangely attached to their ancient cuſtoms. If a gentleman dies, and leaves ſeveral ſons, and a ſmall eſtate clogged with many debts; their income will not maintain them, and they are unacquainted with any means of getting their bread. Some few betake themſelves to the army; but what becomes of the reſt? They are a burden to their acquaintance and relations, and even to the ſtate;

or they linger life away in a manner painful to themſelves. Were they allowed, as in England, to enter into trade, how many diſtreſſed and ruined families might have continued in opulence!

Should a gentleman of a conſiderable eſtate, but encumbered, meet with an advantageous match, with a lady of elegant form and amiable accompliſhments, poſſeſſed alſo of a fortune ſufficient to clear all his debts; unleſs her lineage is anſwerable, unleſs ſhe can reckon ſix ſucceſſive generations of nobility, all the reſt will not avail: the prejudices in point of deſcent will not allow him to cloſe with the means of making himſelf happy, and uſeful to his country.

If you offer to adviſe a gentleman not to ſend his raw products, ſuch as wool, hides, flax, &c. out of the country, but rather ſell them ſomething cheaper at home, which will ſave the expences of carriage, and thoſe raw materials will be wrought by the people of Mecklenburg: though you make it plainly appear to him that this will invite manufacturers, that the towns will flouriſh, and, in caſe of a war or any other calamity, be able to bear part of the burden; that by the increaſe of people in the towns, his grain, cattle, wood, vegetables and fruits, will fetch the better price; that theſe conſtitute the beſt part of the income of an eſtate; that all his raw products ſcarce

bear a proportion of five per cent to thoſe; that conſequently he will be amply made amends for what ſmall loſſes he may at firſt ſuſtain by ſelling cheaper at home: though you lay before him the examples of many ſtates, where the exportation of raw goods is in ſome caſes made capital: though you urge to him that Poland and Spain are the only countries except Mecklenburg, where wool is allowed to be exported; that in the latter this is owing to the ſloth, and partly to the wrong way of thinking of the inhabitants; and in the former its perpetual confuſions are an obſtruction to all ſalutary meaſures; that in both ſuperſtition, prejudice, and diſorder prevail, whilſt in the neighbouring countries trade flouriſhes, and the inhabitants are induſtrious, rich, and happy: lay all theſe truths before him in the ſtrongeſt manner, and the anſwer he will make is, that burghers muſt be kept low, and proſperity begets inſolence; or he will plead old cuſtoms, and freedom to diſpoſe of his property as he pleaſes; and to be ſure he will not omit the privileges of his rank.

But, beſide this impediment to trade on the part of the nobility, there are others which ariſe from the magiſtrates and inhabitants of the ſeveral towns. The generality of the artificers and handicrafts-men, inſtead of any deſire, diſpoſition, or endeavour to improve their art, rather perſiſt in

in an adherence to antient cuſtom. Beſides their inclination to pleaſure, and things foreign from their calling, many evil practices have crept in among them, which prove extremely detrimental both to manufactures and handicrafts. Apprentices, inſtead of learning their trade, are employed by the maſter in the buſineſs of the houſe, as hewing of wood, working in the garden, &c. When they are out of their time, their peregrination, for the ſake of improving in their trade, a practice uſual among the Germans, ſeldom exceeds the limits of their own country; and after having, in this way, ſerved a year or two as journeymen, they come home and ſet up for themſelves. Now, as they have learned nothing thoroughly, nor acquired any great ſkill or readineſs by practice, the goods of their making are generally both indifferent and very dear. To this it is owing that their home-made goods will not go to market out of their own country; nay, they are fallen into ſuch diſcredit at home, that conſiderable ſums go abroad, which Mecklenburg artificers might have earned, if they were more reaſonable in their prices, and more ſkilful in their trade. It muſt be owing to this extortion and unſkilfulneſs that artificers living forty or more miles off, meet with a ready market at the fairs in this country, their wares being better than the home-

made, and ſold ſomething lower, after all the charges of carriage, tolls, and duties.

A very ſenſible gentleman of this country has obſerved, that in erecting new manufactures, or ſupporting thoſe already erected, and bringing them under better regulations, it would not be amiſs were the magiſtrates of the towns to invite ſkilful and experienced workmen from the countries noted for making particular goods, that the townſmen's children who are diſpoſed to learn a trade, may be better inſtructed. And when ſuch a one is, by the cuſtom of the trade, diſcharged from his apprenticeſhip, the magiſtracy ſhould appoint both the time and place of his peregrination; and it ſhould be a place known to excel in that buſineſs to which the young man has been brought up, and where, conſequently, it may be ſuppoſed to flouriſh; and, on his return, he ſhould not be admitted to take up his freedom, and ſet up for himſelf, without an authentic certificate, that he had worked the time appointed at ſuch a place, had behaved with ſobriety and diligence; and this certificate he is to confirm by ſome new piece of work of his own making.

The ſame gentleman has more than once complained to me of the want of domeſtic œconomy among the citizens and trading people. They loſe ſight of this uſeful maxim: that needleſs expences ſhould be leſſened, and that

frugality

frugality is the way to encreaſe their income. They ſhould always bear in mind that more comings-in and leſs goings-out is the ſure road to proſperity; and that without it induſtry, diligence, and labour, are to little or no purpoſe. Now the burghers throughout this country are very deficient in this article, living generally above their income, and ſome in great luxury and extravagance.

But a capital error of the burghers is their meddling with farming and grazing, inſtead of ſticking to their reſpective trades and callings: this generally proves a miſtaken œconomy, very unhappy in its conſequences. Many of the burghers would fain be both tradeſmen and farmers, and thus are neither to any purpoſe. Some abſolutely quit their trades, or carry them on as if they did not care which end went forward; thus trade and manufactures they neglect, and graziery and agriculture they do not underſtand. If a bit of land is to be ſold, they immediately purchaſe it, and often with borrowed money. Such conduct very ſeldom anſwers; what they get in their ſhop is loſt in the field, thro' ignorance and miſmanagement.

But if tradeſmen muſt be dabbling in rural affairs, they ſhould confine themſelves, as the before-mentioned gentleman obſerved, to the keeping of cows: paſtures are not ſo chargeable,

able, and do not require any thing like the time as tillage. Milk and butter are neceſſaries in houſe-keeping, eſpecially as few women drink coffee without milk; and this liquor is now growing into vogue, even among the very loweſt claſs. It is likewiſe proper that the towns ſhould not wholly depend on the country people for milk, butter, and cheeſe, meats, fowls, geeſe, ducks, eggs, &c. Nay, it is highly neceſſary to prevent this dependence, the peaſants here ſcarce applying themſelves to any thing but the article of corn.

But it gives me ſome concern to hear, that in many towns, the magiſtrates themſelves have greatly obſtructed the progreſs of trade and manufactures. They are generally at variance with the ſovereign, or with the burghers. Some of them, indeed, are ſaid to have good intentions, and to be men of zeal and probity; but a greater number are repreſented as void of the qualities requiſite for ſuch offices, headſtrong and paſſionate, acting from wrong principles, and intirely blinded by prejudices: ſuch magiſtrates cauſe a ſchiſm in the ſtate, looking upon the intereſt of the corporation as different from that of the burghers. And where affairs are not in ſo bad a way, all the care they take of public affairs is to follow the beaten track of ancient cuſtom; to receive the town revenues, to audit its accounts, and ſometimes with a patriotic air to hold forth

on

on their rights and privileges; and when perhaps ſome amendment is propoſed, abſolutely to declare againſt any thing that has the appearance of novelty. Whatever does not agree with their own conceit or conveniency, is pronounced impracticable, and exploded with deriſion. If the ſovereign interpoſes his endeavours to prevent the exactions of avarice, and an arbitrary increaſe of the price of proviſions, they uſe all their endeavours to defeat ſuch good intentions, that every thing may remain in the former confuſion; and if they cannot immediately prevent the publication of wholeſome laws, they take care to elude them, by conniving at delinquents. Such is the bad conſequence of inteſtine diviſions. I ſpeak here only of the magiſtrates in the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin's dominions; with regard to the territories of the duke of Strelitz, I can aſſure you that there is a perfect harmony between the duke and his ſubjects.

Moſt of the nobleſſe or gentry of Mecklenburg are the deſcendants of thoſe *milites*, or men at arms, among whom Henry the Lion duke of Saxony and Bavaria divided this country, after he had depoſed Pribiſlaus II. the laſt king of the Venedi and Obotrites. To theſe, as companions of his fortune, his officers, fellow-ſoldiers, &c. he gave away the conquered lands, in reward for their military ſervice.

This

This is the origin of moſt of the ancient nobility of Europe, the poſſeſſion of lands by right of conqueſt. They had few or no titles of counts or barons; but from their military ſervice were called *equites* or *milites*. There were three orders of them, the *milites* (the ſame as the *equites*) the *armigeri*, and the *pueri*. The *milites* or knights were diſtinguiſhed by a ſhield, and armed at all points. The *armigeri* were alſo called *ſervi*, or ecuyers, that is ſhield-bearers; and by others, *ſatellites*, and *tyrones*: theſe were ſuch as had not ſerved their full apprenticeſhip, that is, who had not attended the knight in all his military expeditions and tournaments during the ſpace of ſeven years, and therefore were not as yet intitled to the *cingulum militare*. The third rank were the *pueri*, or *ſchildknapen*, young lads whoſe age did not as yet permit them to bear arms, but only attended the *equites* to the field, where they performed ſome kind of menial ſervice.

The *armigeri* and *pueri* were both maintained by the *miles*, or *eques*, and wore his livery, which was no way diſhonourable; they were emancipated by a box on the ear, and this by the French was called *miſe hors de pain*. I ſhall mention a word or two concerning the ſevere education of the *pueri* from a writer of the middle ages, named Rolevingius. "Their apprenticeſhip "may be compared to martyrdom. At five "years of age, they are ſnatched as it were

" from the cradle, mounted on horſeback, and " taught to ride. They ſleep in the midſt of " hay and dung, and are not ſuffered to move " from thence, till the maſter of the ſtable " comes. They are made wet with horſes " urine, bedawbed with dirt, kicked and " cuffed about. When the riding-maſter " makes his appearance, he orders them to " mount and perform their exerciſe. They " are checked and reprimanded on the leaſt " occaſion, and obliged to bear hardſhips al- " moſt beyond their ſtrength. The ſame diſ- " cipline is obſerved in the courts of princes, " where they are equally trained to military " exerciſe. When they come to the age of " puberty, they are honoured with the ſhield, " girt round with a belt, and armed with a " ſpear, ſword, and arrows. Then, like a " forlorn hope, they march valiantly to " battle."

From ſuch anceſtors are deſcended the preſent nobleſſe of Mecklenburg; and it was not, according to Crantzius, till the fifteenth century that they came to be diſtinguiſhed by the title of nobles. But the Mecklenburghers reckon two ſorts of nobility; one *collata*, and the other *innata*: the former is conferred by patent or creation, and not much valued; the other, derived from their anceſtors in a line of ſucceſſion, is in high eſteem. This is what the French call *nobleſſe du ſang*. To this day

day they have ſcarce any other nobility in this country; they are the ſame as our ancient gentry in England, deſcended from good families, and poſſeſſed of landed eſtates. Properly ſpeaking, there are but three barons in the country, Hahn, Molzahn, and Pleſſe, created formerly by the dukes of Mecklenburg, and one or two counts, created by the emperor. Out of courteſy, however, it is uſual to call the nobleſſe by the title of baron; but many of them deſpiſe it, and prefer that of a noble Mecklenburgher.

The nobility in this country are divided into families of Venedic or Sclavonian extraction, and thoſe of German deſcent. The latter are ſubdivided into the ancient German families, and thoſe whoſe anceſtors purchaſed eſtates in this country within a century or two. I ſhall give you a liſt of all three, in their alphabetical order.

1. Noble families of VENEDIC or SCLAVONIC original.

Axkow, Barnekow, Baſſewitz, Barnewitz, Below, Camptz, Dewitz, Flotow, Grabow, Gentzkow, Grambow, Grebenitz, Gamm, Koppelow, Klenow, Klevenow, Krakewitz, Levitzow, Linſtow, Lowtzow, Luderitz, Molzahn, Netzow, Pluſkow, Pinnow, Pritzbuer, Prignitz, Quitzow, Quilitz, Retzow, Stoiſlaff, Tornow, Woperſnow, and Zulow.

2. Ancient GERMAN families.

Ahrenſtorff, Barner, Barold, Barſſe or Baſſe, Beehr, Berckentin, Bernſtorff, Bibow, Booth, Blucher, Buch, Buchwald, Bulow, Cramohn, Dechow, Deſſiehn, Ditten, Drieberg, Freyberg, Gloden, Grube, Guel or Juel, Haacke, Haane or Hahn, Halberſtadt, Hobe, Holſtein, Jahne, Jaſſmund, Ihlenfeld, Kerberg, Kerdorff, Kettelhut, Kettenburg, Kneſebeck, Knuth, Koppelow, Koſte, Koſſebade, Lancken, Leehſten, Lepel, Lucke, or Glucke, Von der Luhe, Luzow, Manteuffel, Mollendorff, Molcke, Negendanck, Oertz, Oldenburg, Von der Oſten, Parſow or Paſſau, Peccatel, Pederſtorff, Pentze, Pleſſen, Preen, Preſſentien, Pritzbuer, Raben, Raden, Retztorff, Riebe, Rohr, Schack, Scheele, Schwerin, Sperling, Sprengel, Staffeld, Strahlendorff, Thomſtorff, Vieregge, Voſs, Wackerbart, Wangelien, Warborg, Warſtede, Weltziehn, Wenckſtern, Winterfeld, Zepelien, Zule.

3. GERMAN families ſettled in MECKLENBURG within a century or two.

Bardeleben, Berg, Bornfeld, Bothmar, Bredow, Brockdorff, Brockhuſen, Brown, Bueck, Criwitz, Crœcher, Deginck, Donner, Dæring, Dorn, Dunckherr, Ehrenſtein, Engel, Erlenkamp, Evert, Fabricius, Ferber, Finck, Freyburg, Goeben, Goeden, Hammerſtein, Von der Hard, Hein, Holle, Horn,

Horn, Hunemærder, Jurgas, Kalckreuter, Kaliſch, Kayſerling, Kielmanſegg, Klauſenheimb, Klein, Klinckgraff, Kruger, Kurtzrock, Laffert, Langermann, Legat, Marſchall, Meerheim, Millies, La Motte, Muller de Lutzne, Mumme, Nerow, Normann, Oerenſtadt, Peterſward, Plonnies, Powiſch, Du Puitz, Ranzow, Reder, Reymerſen, Ribbeck, Saala, Scheiter, Scheven, Schmettau, Schuckmann, Schutz, Schwartz, Sturm, Tobing, Treuenfels, Vietingſhoff, Waldau, Wedel, Wendhauſen, Wendland, Werpup, Werthern, Wetig, Wickeden, Witzendorff, Wolffrath.

From the above liſt you may judge what a numerous nobleſſe they have in this country; and ſeveral of theſe families are divided into different branches. Hence it is that ſuch numbers of them go into foreign ſervice, it being impoſſible for them all to be employed at home. For there are not places enough at the two ducal courts, and the prejudices of the country will not permit any of them to have recourſe to commerce. Beſides, the cuſtom of gavel-kind obtains throughout Mecklenburg; the conſequence of which is, that the nobility become every day poorer and more numerous. Yet there are ſome noblemen here very rich; baron Hahn in particular, a ſubject of the duke of Strelitz, is ſaid to be worth 1000,000 rix-dollars per annum, an immenſe eſtate for this

country. I mentioned to you before that the privileges of the nobleſſe are very great, and after many conteſts with the dukes, have been finally ſettled by the laſt convention in 1755.

Thus I have given you, my dear friend, a circumſtantial account of the country, and its inhabitants; I ſhall now attempt a ſketch of its conſtitution and form of government.

The CONSTITUTION and GOVERNMENT of MECKLENBURG.

THE duchy of Mecklenburg is ſubject to two princes of the ſame illuſtrious family, whoſe origin is loſt in the darkneſs of antiquity. It is certain that this country was firſt inhabited by the Vandals, a nation of whom we know very little, except from the Roman hiſtorians. I have given in my Vandalia the ſucceſſion of the Vandal kings, from Anthyrius I. down to Rhadgaſtus II. partly from tradition, and partly from ancient hiſtory, between which you will make a proper diſtinction. The country having been drained of inhabitants in the fifth century by the migrations of the Vandals, the Sclavi or Venedi, a nation of Sarmatia Europæa, came to occupy their territories. This nation of the Venedi extended themſelves from the Viſtula to the Elbe, and were governed by their own kings; who, from the principal tribe inhabiting the preſent country of Mecklen-

Mecklenburg, were oftentimes called kings of the Obotrites. The Mecklenburg hiſtorians aſſert, that theſe kings of the Venedi and Obotrites were deſcended from the Vandal kings; that the Venedi came as friends and not as conquerors; and that the two nations of the Vandals and the Venedi coaleſced into one, and continued to be ſubject to the princes of the ancient royal line. This opinion is founded on tradition and plauſible arguments, which you may ſee in my Vandalia.

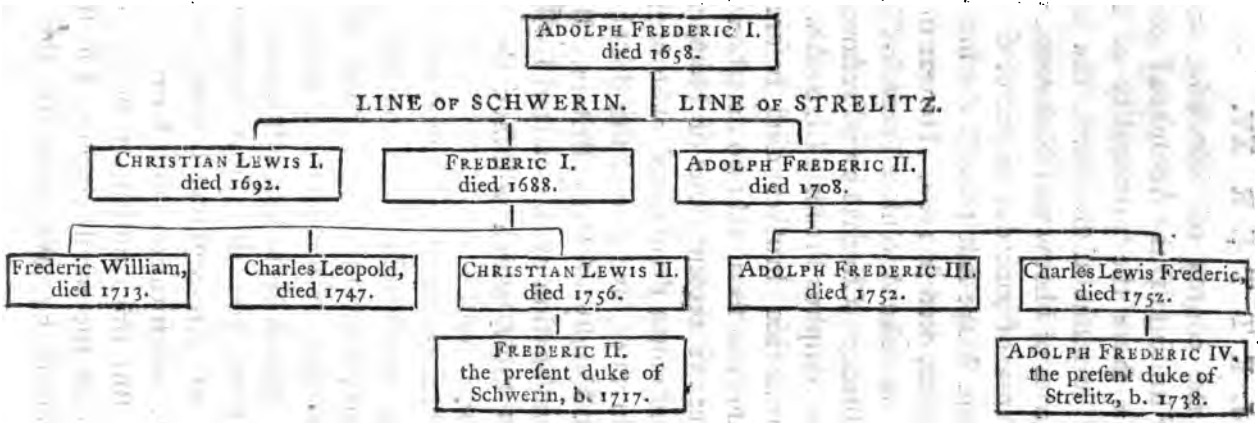
The firſt king of the Venedi and Obotrites we meet with in hiſtory, is Witzan or Witſlaus, cotemporary of Charlemagne, and ſlain in battle in 795. From Witzan we find a ſucceſſion of kings down to Pribiſlaus II. who after a bloody war, to which the battle of Demmin put an end in 1164, was diſpoſſeſſed of his dominions by Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony and Bavaria, anceſtor of his preſent majeſty king George III. Pribiſlaus was afterwards reſtored to a great part of his dominions by the ſame prince who had dethroned him; but he was deprived of the regal title, and in him the kingdom of the Venedi and Obotrites had a final period. From that time, viz. from 1167, till the year 1348, the ſovereigns of this country were ſtiled lords and princes of Mecklenburg. In 1348. Albert I. a deſcendant of Pribiſlaus II. was created duke of Mecklenburg and prince of the empire by the emperor Charles IV.

and his poſterity continue ſtill in poſſeſſion of this dignity.

Towards the middle of the laſt century, this illuſtrious houſe came to be divided into the two lines of Mecklenburg Schwerin, and Mecklenburg Strelitz. Duke Adolphus Frederic I. died in 1658, and left ſeveral children, beſides a poſthumous ſon, Adolphus Frederic II. His eldeſt ſon Chriſtian Lewis I. died in 1692 without iſſue. Frederic I. a brother of this prince, founded the line of Schwerin, and Adolphus Frederick II. the line of Strelitz. Frederic I. died in 1688. His two eldeſt ſons reigned ſucceſſively after their uncle, but left no male iſſue; his third ſon Chriſtian Lewis II. ſucceeded his brother Charles Leopold in 1747, and deceaſed in 1756. To him ſucceeded his ſon Frederic II. the preſent duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin.

To come to the line of Mecklenburg Strelitz: the duke of Mecklenburg Guſtrow dying without iſſue in 1695, duke Frederic William of the Schwerin branch pretended to the ſole inheritance of the duchy of Guſtrow. This produced a conteſt between him and his father's younger brother, duke Adolphus Frederic II. of Mecklenburg Strelitz; which conteſt was at length amicably adjuſted at Hamburg, by a convention ſigned in 1701. In virtue of this agreement, duke Frederic William was to have the duchy of Mecklenburg proper, the principality of Schwerin, the principality of Wenden,

Wenden, the county of Schwerin, and the lordſhip of Roſtock. Duke Adolphus Frederic II. had to his ſhare the principality of Ratzeburg, the lordſhip of Stargard, the ancient commanderies of Mirow and Nemerow, with a yearly revenue of 9000 dollars out of the toll of Boitzenburg. Duke Adolphus II. the firſt of the line of Strelitz, died in 1708. He was ſucceeded by his ſon duke Adolphus Frederic III. who had alſo a brother, Charles Lewis Frederic, duke of Mirow. Adolphus Frederic III. died without iſſue in 1752: his brother died before him, but left iſſue four ſons and two daughters. The eldeſt ſon is the preſent duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, Adolphus Frederic IV. who ſucceeded his uncle in 1752, and one of the daughters is her preſent Majeſty of Great Britain. But for a clearer explanation of this matter, I will give you a ſhort table, which will ſhew the whole at one view.


ADOLPH FREDERIC I.
died 1658.
LINE OF SCHWERIN.
LINE OF STRELITZ.
CHRISTIAN LEWIS I.
died 1692.
FREDERIC I.
died 1688.
ADOLPH FREDERIC II.
died 1708.
Frederic William,
died 1713.
Charles Leopold,
died 1747.
CHRISTIAN LEWIS II.
died 1756.
ADOLPH FREDERIC III.
died 1752.
Charles Lewis Frederic,
died 1752.
FREDERIC II.
the present duke of
Schwerin, b. 1717.
ADOLPH FREDERIC IV.
the present duke of
Strelitz, b. 1738.

From this ſketch you may ſee that there is not a ſovereign family in Europe, of greater antiquity and ſplendor of deſcent than the ſerene houſe of Mecklenburg. Name me a prince among them all, whoſe anceſtors were poſſeſſed of the regal dignity at the time of Charlemagne. But it appears that the princes of this ſerene houſe were kings of the Venedi and Obotrites in the eighth century, and had concluded an alliance with that great reſtorer of the Weſtern empire. This is no fabulous account, but a fact clearly traced in hiſtory. It is true, the princes of this houſe afterwards met with great viciſſitudes. One time they were diſpoſſeſſed of their dominions, another juncture raiſed them to the throne of Sweden; but the family ſtill ſubſiſts with dignity, and makes a conſiderable figure among the ſtates of the empire. Intermarriages between them and the other great houſes of Europe have been frequent. The ſovereigns of Denmark, Sweden, Poland, and Pruſſia, have married princeſſes of this illuſtrious houſe; moſt of the German princes have followed the example; and Britain now rejoices in the like auſpicious union.

Having given you this ſhort account of the princes of this country, I come now to delineate its conſtitution and form of government. But this conſtitution being analogous to that of the whole empire, I ſhall firſt draw a ſketch of the government of the Ger-

manic body. This government is a limited monarchy, having the emperor for its head, and the ſtates of the empire are its members. But theſe ſtates, as my friend M. Reinhard has juſtly obſerved to me, are not only members, but *Conregnantes*, forming together with the emperor that body in which reſides the ſupreme power. The ſtates of the empire are divided into three claſſes, the college of electors, the college of princes, and laſtly, that of the imperial cities. The electors are nine, three ſpiritual, the archbiſhops of Mentz, Triers, and Cologne; and ſix temporal, the king of Bohemia, the dukes of Bavaria and Saxony, the marquis of Brandenburg, the Count Palatine of the Rhine, and the duke of Hanover. The empire of Germany was founded in the year 800 by Charlemagne, whoſe poſterity down to Lewis IV. held it by hereditary right; but by the weakneſs of his ſucceſſors, it became elective. The emperor's authority is much confined, and his revenues very ſmall; yet he is the fountain of honour, creating dukes, princes, marquiſſes, &c. and he has the ſole power of convening the diet. This aſſembly conſiſts of the emperor, the nine electors, the ſpiritual and temporal princes, and the deputies of the imperial cities. Their meeting is held at Ratiſbon, where they enact laws, raiſe taxes, conclude alliances, or determine differences between the members of their own body. Beſides this aſſembly, there

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are two ſupreme courts of judicature, called the Aulic council and the chamber of Wetzlar, to which lies an appeal from the ſubjects of the ſtates of the empire, when they think themſelves aggrieved.

The college of princes is very numerous, conſiſting of dukes, margraves, landgraves, princes abſolutely ſo called, and counts. Theſe were originally titles of perſonal offices, which they held under the emperor. The dukes (*duces*) were governors of provinces, and had alſo the command of the troops in their reſpective duchies; *hertzog*, the German name for a duke, ſignifying the chief or leader of an army. Subordinate to theſe were the counts, who adminiſtered juſtice in a certain diſtrict, by the Germans called *Gau*; whence comes the name of provinces terminating in *gau*, as *Suntgau*, *Nortgau*, &c. The counts in the Teutonic language were ſtiled *Grau* (afterwards changed into *Graff*) which ſignifies *gray*; becauſe they are ſuppoſed originally to have been aged perſons, who attended the emperor in his circuit through the provinces (from whence they took the Latin name of *Comites*) and aſſiſted him with their counſel. Though the employment of thoſe counts or *Graves* ſeems to have been purely civil, yet in time of war they had the command of the troops within their diſtrict. Thoſe who commanded on the frontier were called Margraves, from the word *marcke*, ſig-

ſignifying a frontier. Thoſe who had a whole province under their juriſdiction, were ſtiled Landgraves; thoſe who were intruſted with the adminiſtration of juſtice within the palace, took the title of Pfaltzgraves, or Counts Palatine; and ſuch as had only the government of a fort or caſtle, were called Burgraves. Some of them were denominated from their place of government, as Rhingrave, the count who governed the province of the Rhine, &c.

All theſe titles, as I mentioned to you before, originally implied no more than perſonal offices; but at preſent they denote hereditary lordſhips. The princes of the empire are all ſovereigns in their reſpective territories, having an abſolute juriſdiction over their ſubjects, except where the diet or the ſupreme courts of the empire have a right to interpoſe. Thus they enact laws, regulate eccleſiaſtical affairs (in Proteſtant diſtricts) raiſe taxes, conclude alliances with foreign princes and with one another, build fortreſſes, levy troops, and coin money; in ſhort, they exerciſe moſt acts of ſovereignty conſiſtent with the intereſt and good order of the whole empire.

It is the confederacy of theſe princes that forms the Germanic body. They are divided into two claſſes, called the ancient and the modern houſes. The former, being ſuperior in power and dignity to the latter, have a precedency at the diet: but they are all equally intitled to vote at that

that aſſembly. The ancient and great houſes are, firſt, the archdukes of Auſtria; ſecond, the dukes of Bavaria and Counts Palatine, who are both of the ſame family; third, the dukes of Saxony; fourth, the marqueſſes or margraves of Brandenburg; fifth, the dukes of Brunſwick and Lunenburg; ſixth, the dukes of Mecklenburg; ſeventh, the dukes of Wurtemberg; eighth, the landgraves of Heſſe; ninth, the margraves of Baden; tenth, the dukes of Holſtein; eleventh, the princes of Anhalt. But it is neceſſary to obſerve, that in the college of princes, at the imperial diet, there is an eſſential difference between the princes called dukes, margraves, landgraves, or ſimply princes, and the counts; namely, that the counts are diſtributed into four claſſes, each of which has only a ſingle vote; whereas every prince has his vote, and ſome more than one at the diet.

From this ſummary view of the government of the empire, you may form an idea of that of the duchy of Mecklenburg, as they are both framed nearly on the ſame plan. The duchy of Mecklenburg is a limited government, of which the duke is the head, and the provincial ſtates the members. The duke's power is ſo far abridged, that in the enacting of laws he is obliged to conſult with the ſtates. The country is divided into three circles: the firſt, that of Mecklenburg, the capital of which, ſince the ceſſion of Wiſmar to the Swedes, is

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Parchim; the ſecond circle is that of Wenden, the capital Guſtrow; the third is that of Stargard, the capital New Brandenburg. The two firſt belong to the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, and the third to the duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz. The whole duchy contains forty-five towns, beſides three convents, and a vaſt number of ſeats and villages belonging to the nobility, on which are dependent fifteen or ſixteen thouſand *hufes*, or manors. A *hufe* is a land meaſure equal to thirty acres. For one moiety of theſe *hufes* the nobility pay as a contribution to the ſovereign, nine dollars each *hufe*; the other moiety, which they call *ritterhufen*, are free, and independent.

The nobility form the firſt ſtate, and enjoy great privileges. Their eſtates are valued at twenty millions and ſeven hundred thouſand rix-dollars; the yearly income of which is ten hundred and thirty-five thouſand rix-dollars; and reckoning the villages and towns, the whole yearly revenue of the country is computed at four millions five thouſand rix-dollars. This ſurpaſſes the income of many dukedoms, and even of ſome electorates.

The commons or burghers are the ſecond ſtate, and repreſented by the deputies of the towns, under the direction of the reſpective capital of the circle. In the year 1523 the nobility and commons of the three circles entered into

into a compact of union, which has been confirmed by the dukes at different times, and lately by the convention of Roſtock, in 1755. In virtue of this compact, all the free inhabitants of each circle ſhall enjoy a full equality of rights, privileges, and immunities, ſo as to be governed by the ſame laws and ordinances, both in civil and eccleſiaſtical matters. And this is not only an union of the circles, but alſo of the ſtates; the nobility and commons agreeing to a participation and community of all their rights and privileges, and to their having an equal right of voting in the provincial diets.

The power of ſummoning theſe diets is in the ſovereign, who convenes them generally every autumn, in order to ſettle the annual contributions towards the ſervice of government, or to regulate other matters of public concern. The writs are iſſued out to the ſtates of the three circles, four weeks before they meet; and in theſe writs are mentioned the articles on which they are to debate. The meetings are held alternately at Sternberg and Malchin.

The officers of ſtate are eight land-raths or provincial counſellors; four for the duchy of Schwerin, three for Guſtrow, and one for Stargard. Theſe officers are choſen by the order of the nobility, and confirmed by the ſovereign. Each circle has alſo a marſhal of its own, which

office is hereditary in the noble families of Lutzow, Molzahn, and Hahn.

Beſides the diet, there is a committee of the ſtates to manage affairs relating to the general union, and to watch over their rights and privileges. This committee conſiſts of two provincial counſellors, three deputies of the nobility (being one from each circle), one deputy of the town of Roſtock, and one from each capital of the circles, viz. Parchim, Guſtrow, and New Brandenburg. This aſſembly, conſiſting of nine perſons (whoſe number, however, may be increaſed by the ſtates at their own expence) reſides at Roſtock, and is conſidered as a college repreſentative of the whole body of the nobility and commons.

For the determination of private property there are three courts of law, thoſe of Schwerin, Guſtrow, and Strelitz. Beſides theſe, at Guſtrow they have an aulic and provincial court of juſtice, which ſits the whole year. To this provincial court lies an appeal from the three tribunals of Schwerin, Guſtrow, and Strelitz. Yet, as counſellor Reinhard has obſerved to me, the latter are not inferior or ſubordinate tribunals; nor is the provincial court ever called the high court *; but the four tribunals are per-

* This corrects a miſtake in my introduction to Vandalia, p. 11, where I call the provincial court a ſuperior tribunal.

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fectly equal. It is true, there are appeals to the provincial court; but they are appeals, as the ſame gentleman told me, of a particular kind, *appellationes ad partem*. This provincial court is common, not only to the two ducal lines, but to the ſtates, who have likewiſe a ſhare in nominating the members. The dukes appoint the preſident, vice-preſidents, and four aſſeſſors. The nobility ſend one ordinary and four extraordinary aſſeſſors: the other ordinary aſſeſſors are choſen by the principality of Schwerin, and by the univerſity and town of Roſtock. Where the duke's prerogative, *de non interpellando*, does not interpoſe, cauſes may be removed from this, and all the other courts, to the high tribunals of the empire This prerogative, granted to the dukes of Mecklenburg by the emperor Ferdinand III. in 1651, extends to all criminal cauſes, and in civil matters to ſuits under 2000 florins, which, reckoning the different value of money from that time, is extended by ſome lawyers to 1937 rixdollars. In towns, the firſt hearing of cauſes is inveſted in the magiſtrates. For the deciſion of feudal matters, there are alſo two courts, one at Schwerin, and the other at Strelitz; but there lies no appeal from theſe to the provincial court. At Roſtock they have alſo a tribunal, called the conſiſtory, for determining eccleſiaſtical cauſes. The ſupreme court belonging to the dukes is that of the privy council of regency; the de-

meſne chamber has the managing of matters which concern the revenue.

The laws of Mecklenburg are either *jura ſcripta*, or *conſuetudinaria*; and theſe, again, are either general, particular, or quite ſpecial. The general German laws are the decrees of the imperial diet, relating to the adminiſtration of juſtice, the police, &c. which bind the whole empire. The particular or provincial laws are thoſe enacted by the dukes with the conſent of the ſtates. Theſe relate either to ſpiritual or to temporal matters. The former contain all the ordinances concerning the ſuperintendents, the præpoſiti, the ceremonies, the liturgy, and, in ſhort, whatever comes under the name of conſiſtorial ordinances, of which they have a code. The latter comprehend whatever relates to the conſtitution and form of government, the police, the army, feudal cauſes, the finances, the adminiſtration of civil and criminal juſtice, and the public taxes or contributions. Theſe are alſo collected into a code of ducal edicts or conſtitutions. The quite ſpecial laws are thoſe ſtatutes and regulations which belong to corporations, and have been granted by the dukes to particular towns, or made with their conſent. Thus Roſtock, Wiſmar, &c. have their municipal laws, moſt of which are borrowed from thoſe of Lubeck and Schwerin.

The annual revenue of the dukes of Mecklenburg

lenburg Schwerin ariſes from the tolls, exciſe, and other duties, which, together, may amount to about ſeven hundred thouſand rixdollars a year. The contribution of the nobility, agreeably to the perpetual convention of 1755, is paid by half the taxable *hufes* or manors. The contributions of the freemen reſiding on the eſtates and in the villages belonging to towns, as alſo thoſe of the towns themſelves, have been finally ſettled. With this annual public revenue, and a ſubſidy proportionable to that yielded by the taxable *hufes* or manors of the nobility, the duke is to defray the expences of garriſons, fortifications, envoys, diets extraordinary, aſſemblies, and payments to the imperial chamber at Wetzlar. Notice is annually given of theſe contributions at the diets of the province, and then they are levied by an order of the ſovereign. Such are the ordinary contributions; beſides which there are occaſional taxes for the ſervice of the empire, for the circle of Lower Saxony, or for the ſupport of the unmarried princeſſes of the ſerene family: theſe the duke makes known at the general diet, by communicating an authentic copy of the reſolutions of the empire and circle of Lower Saxony to that aſſembly. The princeſſes tax is fixed at twenty thouſand rix-dollars, and levied on the whole country without exception, except in ſuch years as a tax is required for the empire and circle of Lower Saxony.

Beſide the above contributions there are free gifts, regulated by the conſent of the nobility and commons. The villages and parcels of lands belonging to corporations, as alſo the vaſſals of the clergy, are obliged to pay their aſſeſſments to thoſe free gifts for the public ſervice. There has been of late a conſiderable deduction from the revenue of the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, by the mortgage of his ſhare of the toll of Boitzenburg on the Elbe, and eight baillwicks, to the houſe of Brunſwick Lunenburg. This was ſettled by the emperor Charles VI. to indemnify that houſe for the charges incurred in executing the imperial commiſſion, in 1732, againſt the preſent duke's uncle Charles Leopold, who in a conteſt with the nobility had refuſed to ſubmit to the imperial decree. Theſe charges amounted to upwards of a million of rixdollars. The above demeſnes produce an annual income of ſixty thouſand dollars, and were ſequeſtered for paying the intereſt of the money expended in executing the commiſſion, as likewiſe for diſcharging part of the capital. This, however, was not to affect the duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz; his ſtipulated ſhare of the Boitzenburg toll, viz. 9000 dollars a year, was ordered to be paid with the uſual regularity. But the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin has lately paid off one half of the mortgage, and I am informed that the money is almoſt ready to diſcharge the remainder.

The revenues of the duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz arife from the circle of Stargard, the principality of Ratzeburg, the Boitzenburg toll, the public contribution of the nobility and commons, and other duties, which may amount in the whole to about three hundred thouſand rix-dollars a year. But, as I mentioned to you before, this prince's demeſnes are improving daily; and Baron Dewitz makes no doubt but in nine or ten years time his income will be doubled.

By the convention of Hamburg, in 1701, the lordſhip of Stargard was ceded by Frederic-William, duke of Schwerin, to Adolphus-Frederic II. duke of Strelitz, *cum omni jure principum imperii*; ſo that the ſaid duke Adolphus-Frederick II. ſhould have a full power of exerciſing in that province both the territorial rights, and thoſe of ſovereign juriſdiction, in all civil and eccleſiaſtic cauſes. At the ſame time all the duke's vaſſals were to hold of him as direct and immediate lord of the fief; but the ſtates of the province were to continue indiſſolubly united with the whole body of the ſtates of Mecklenburg, to enjoy as formerly their votes and ſuffrages at the diet, and to be capable of holding the public offices, as thoſe of provincial counſellors and aſſeſſors in the courts of juſtice, and directors or overſeers of the convents. As this lordſhip conſtitutes one of the three circles of the whole country, the duke of Mecklenburg

Schwerin, on ſummoning his own ſtates, gives notice thereof to the duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, and informs him of the propoſals which are to be laid before the aſſembly; he intreats him alſo to ſummon his ſtates to that diet, and to acquaint them with his propoſals. The taxes and contributions raiſed in this circle, like thoſe of the other two, are remitted to the common treaſury of the province of Roſtock, from whence the contributions are delivered out to the dukes. Both theſe princes may appoint deputies to inquire into the neceſſities of the circles, and to the provincial court of juſtice at Guſtrow; but the conſiſtory at Roſtock depends intirely on the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin. The duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz appoints his ſuperintendent to ſit in the conſiſtory at Strelitz, and his aſſeſſor to aſſiſt in the provincial court of juſtice at Guſtrow. By the convention of Hamburg, the right of primogeniture is eſtabliſhed in the two lines, the elder brother to be inveſted with the ſovereignty, and the other brothers to have an appanage.

The number of forces maintained by the preſent dukes of Mecklenburg is inconſiderable, and little more than neceſſary to guard their perſons, and preſerve the public tranquillity. I mentioned to you, in a former letter, that the duke of Strelitz maintains five companies of foot, a troop of life-guards, and a

few

few huſſars. The duke of Schwerin has three regiments of foot, two troops of life-guards, and a regiment of huſſars. The troops of both dukes are all cloathed alike in blue uniform, and trained to the Pruſſian diſcipline. Neither of theſe princes have any ambition to ſwell themſelves beyond their natural ſtrength, to invade the rights of others, or to diſturb their neighbours. The preſent duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin's uncle, duke Charles Leopold, had a conſiderable army on foot; but it was by oppreſſing his ſubjects, and trampling upon the necks of the nobility. However, were the neceſſity of government to require it, the two dukes are able to maintain a body of fourteen or fifteen thouſand men. The ſtates do not contribute to the ſupport of the troops; but the dukes are obliged to defray all the expences of the military eſtabliſhment out of their own revenues. The nobility and their vaſſals are exempted from quartering the ſoldiers; but the towns only from finding quarters for the horſe.

The ſame titles are aſſumed by the dukes of both lines, namely, thoſe of duke of Mecklenburg, prince of Wenden, Schwerin, and Ratzeburg, count of Schwerin, and lord of Roſtock and Stargard.

With regard to the ducal arms, their ſhield is party per pale, two bends divided into ſix fields, exclusive of an eſcutcheon. The firſt of

theſe fields is topaz, a buffalo's head gardant ruby, crowned with horns pearl, with a ring of the ſame through its noſtrils, for Mecklenburg. The ſecond is ſapphire, a griffin topaz, for Wenden. The third, party per feſſe barry of two ſapphire, with a griffin pearl, and a lozenge amethyſt. Both theſe are held by the learned Beehr to be the arms of the lordſhip of Roſtock. The eſcutcheon is party per feſſe ruby and topaz, which, according to the ſame author, denote the arms of the county of Schwerin. The fourth is ruby, a croſs wavy pearl, for the principality of Ratzeburg. The fifth ruby, an arm cloathed, pearl, and bound with a ribbon of the ſame, iſſuing from a cloud, and holding up a ring topaz, with a ſtone infixed, for the lordſhip of Stargard. The ſixth is topaz, a buffalo's head diamond, with a crown topaz, and horns pearl, a tongue panting, and placed obliquè; but to what this alludes is uncertain. The creſt is compoſed of five helmets open and crowned; the firſt, for Mecklenburg, is ſurmounted with five pales, ſharp-pointed, and joined towards the bottom; the firſt azure, the ſecond or, the third gules, the fourth argent, the fifth ſable, ſurmounted alſo with a buffalo's head ſable, crowned with gules, horned argent, contourné and placed in profile; behind the head is a peacock's tail faſtened towards the bottom to the upper part of the pales. The ſecond, for Wenden, ſurmounted with two wings,

wings, the one azure, and the other or. The third, for Stargard, ſurmounted with two buffalo's horns couped with gules and or. The fourth, for Schwerin, ſurmounted with a half griffin. The fifth, for Ratzeburg, ſurmounted with ſeven lances, argent, to which are faſtened towards the points the ſame number of ſmall banners, alſo argent. The mantles are of all colours and metals. The ſupporters are on the right a buffalo, on the left a griffin. Part of theſe emblems have been prettily explained by an anonymous writer in the following verſes:

Meckleburgiacæ virtutem & robora gentis
Bucephali caput & gryphis imago notat.
Juſtitiæ & fidei ſtudium nudata puellæ
Brachia, quamque offert annulus, arrha probat.

At the diet of the empire, the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin has three votes in the college of princes, and the ſame number in the aſſembly of the ſtates of Lower Saxony; one for the duchy of Guſtrow, another for the county of Schwerin, and a third for the principality of Schwerin. The duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz has alſo a vote at the ſaid aſſemblies, in right of his principality of Ratzeburg; and his highneſs has a juſt claim to another vote for Stargard.

The aſſeſſment for this country, in the matricula of the empire, excluſive of Schwerin and Ratzeburg,

Ratzeburg, is forty horſe, and ſixty-ſeven foot, or 748 florins to a Roman month: but the crown of Sweden pays its proportion of this ſum for the town of Wiſmar, and the bailiwics of Poel and New-cloſter. The duchies of Schwerin and Guſtrow pay 243 rixdollars to the imperial chamber at Wetzlar.

The dukes of Mecklenburg being deſcended from the kings of the Venedi and Obotrites, and having been independent ſovereigns till they voluntarily became members of the Germanic body, may be well ſuppoſed to enjoy very great prerogatives. 1. They are *domini proprietarii*, or lords paramount of the whole country. 2. They can chuſe what time they pleaſe to take the inveſtiture of their dominions from the emperor, the diploma of their creation as dukes making uſe of the words, *quoties opportunum fuerit.* 3. They are perpetual chancellors of the univerſity of Roſtock. 4. They have a right to create counts and barons. 5. They have the privilege, as I mentioned to you before, *de non appellando.* 6. They have a right to coin money, and, in ſhort, they exerciſe the ſame power as any other prince of the empire.

Theſe princes have alſo ſeveral well-founded pretenſions. The principal are, 1. Their pretenſion to the duchy of Saxe-Lawenburg, founded on the compact of inheritance, in 1431, between Bernard of Saxe-Lawenburg, and

and Henry and John dukes of Mecklenburg; which treaty was renewed, in 1518, between Magnus duke of Saxe-Lawenburg, and Henry and Albert dukes of Mecklenburg. The duchy of Saxe-Lawenburg is now poſſeſſed by the electoral houſe of Brunſwick-Lunenburg.

2. Their pretenſion to the landgraviate of Leuchtenberg, ſituate in the Upper Palatinate. This claim is founded on the right of expectancy granted to Henry duke of Mecklenburg, in 1502, by the emperor Maximilian I. who declared that this landgraviate ſhould devolve to the houſe of Mecklenburg, if that of Leuchtenberg came to be extinct. The caſe happened in 1646, by the deceaſe of the laſt landgrave, Maximilian Adam; yet the landgraviate was conferred on Albert duke of Bavaria, who had married Maria, Maximilian Adam's ſiſter. The houſe of Mecklenburg, having been greatly reduced by the Thirty Years War, was not then in a condition to aſſert its rights.

3. Their pretenſion to the dignity and office of archi-ſciſſor, or firſt carver of the empire. This dignity was conferred, in 1531, by the emperor Charles V. on Albert, duke of Mecklenburg, and his heirs; but it is now in diſuſe, though the claim has been revived by the ſerene family.

So much for what relates to the government: I ſhall conclude with a word or two concerning the

the convents, and the ſtate of learning in Mecklenburg.

There are three convents in this country, for ladies of the Lutheran religion; namely, thoſe of Dobbertin, Ribbenitz, and Malchow, ſubject to the direction of the ſtates. By the famous convention of 1755, theſe convents are to be maintained in their reſpective privileges; and both they and their eſtates are repreſented by the nobleſſe at the provincial diets. They cannot purchaſe without the approbation of the Sovereign. In ſhort, they are a ſort of free boarding-ſchools, founded on the ancient eſtabliſhment, where young ladies, generally of the beſt families, are educated: ſome of them ſpend their lives in theſe houſes, without taking either the religious vow or habit; neither are they tied down to many rules, but barely ſuch as are requiſite for the good order of the community. Being allowed to quit theſe houſes, and marry when they pleaſe, they cannot be conſidered as loſt to ſociety.

Ever ſince the Reformation, learning has greatly flouriſhed in the duchy of Mecklenburg. The univerſity of Roſtock, as I mentioned to you in a former letter, has produced a number of able profeſſors in moſt branches of learning. Even many of the dukes themſelves were eminent for literature, and moſt of them have favoured it with their patronage. The preſent dukes are remarkably fond of men

of

of letters, as appears by the literati promoted at New Strelitz, and by the eminent profeſſors appointed at the univerſity of Butzow. The ſalaries of thoſe profeſſors, I am told, are the beſt of any univerſity in Germany; ſome of them have 800, others 1000 rixdollars *per annum*; yet they complain, as I mentioned to you from Butzow, that they have but few pupils. The clergy throughout the whole country are eminent in literature; the branches they moſt cultivate, beſides theology, are the claſſics, hiſtory, and natural philoſophy. The gentlemen of the law are diſtinguiſhed alſo for their polite learning; and many of the phyſicians for natural philoſophy and the mathematics, as well as for the medical art. There are few gentlemen of any note in the principal towns, but have their cabinets of curioſities, and take a delight in ſearching into the arcana of nature. The duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin ſets the public an example, being a very good philoſopher, and an excellent mechanic. The duke of Strelitz has alſo a taſte for natural philoſophy, which he ſtudied under abbé Nollet. Hence a ſpirit of emulation ſeems to ſpread among the nobility, many of whom think it a greater honour to be known for their progreſs in learning and the polite arts, than for the largeneſs of their fortunes, or the antiquity of their pedigrees.

A perſon

A perſon of diſtinction was obſerving to me the other day, that next to vice, nothing can be a greater diſgrace to a nobleman than ignorance. The word *nobilis*, he ſaid, is probably derived from *noſcibilis*, that is, diſtinguiſhed or known; now learning is the moſt effectual way of making a perſon known, not only in his own, but in diſtant countries; not only in the preſent, but in future ages. What has made Homer, Plato, Socrates, Virgil, Cicero, Leibnitz, Locke, Newton known? Was it the ſplendor of their deſcent? No: it was their learning that proclaimed their fame, and conſigned their names to immortality. This is being truly noble; it is a nobility which far ſurpaſſes that of blood; a nobility that can never be extinct. Nobility without learning is but an outward garment; ſtrip ſuch a perſon of his lace-trappings, and turn him into a cottage, you will find he has nothing to diſtinguiſh him from the peaſant. If the rational capacity be that which renders man more noble than brutes, he who has taken the moſt care to improve that capacity, by exploring remote countries, by inquiring into the laws and cuſtoms of different kingdoms, by inveſtigating the order and ſtructure of created beings, by directing his ſtudies to the improvement and happineſs of ſociety, muſt ſurely be deemed the nobleſt of men. How vain then the boaſt of titles, ribbons, and ſplendid gewgaws, when compared to the more ſolid advantages

vantages of learning! The cuſtom of hereditary nobility, eſtabliſhed in Europe, is owing to a preſumption that the children will not degenerate from the virtues of their parents. But how falſe the preſumption! Nothing indeed can be a ſtronger inſtance of the corruption of the preſent age, than the preference given to title and fortune, in competition with learning and virtue. Much better would it be to follow the practice of the Chineſe, in ennobling none but the literati; ſo that if a mandarin's ſon ſhould happen to be a blockhead, he is reduced to the ſtate of a plebeian. He concluded then with that fine paſſage of Seneca; *Non facit nobilem atrium plenum fumoſis imaginibus; nec quod ante nos fuit, noſtrum eſt. Anima facit nobilem, cui ex quacunque conditione ſupra fortunam licet ſurgere* *. I own this nobleman's ſpeech, which was delivered with ſome energy, gave me pleaſure; it ſhewed a dignity of ſentiment, and a candour, that I could not help admiring. I told him, however, that the corruption he complained of, namely, the preferring riches to merit had unfortunately obtained, more or leſs, in all ages, and countries; that

O cives, cives, quærenda pecunia primum eſt,
Virtus poſt nummos,

* Ep. 44.

was a maxim not more prevalent now than formerly; that I was glad to ſee the encouragement given to learning by the princes and nobility of Mecklenburg; but that I believed there was no country where the ſciences were more encouraged, and more reſpect paid to men of letters, than in England; of which I gave ſeveral, and ſome of them living inſtances: I added, that our nobility were remarkable for their application to every branch of learning, and eſpecially ſuch as are neceſſary to form the ſtateſman. He ſaid he was not a ſtranger to this particular, and thus our converſation ended. I ſhall here take an opportunity of ending my letter, hoping you will be ſo good as to excuſe me, ſhould I happen to run into minuteneſs, as it proceeds intirely from a good intention, that of contributing to your amuſement, and giving you ſome ſort of proof that

I am,

Dear Sir, yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER XVI.

Strelitz, November 5, 1768.

DEAR SIR,

HAVING given you a deſcription of the country and government of Mecklenburg, I having nothing more to add than my excurſions in this neighbourhood, which have enabled me to make ſome new obſervations, and given me a farther inſight into the cuſtoms and manners of the inhabitants.

Not long after my arrival at Strelitz, the duke mentioned to me that it would be proper I ſhould pay a viſit to baron Jaſſmund, who lives at a ſmall diſtance from hence, at a village called Redlin. The reaſon his highneſs gave was, that this gentleman is one of the moſt learned in the whole country, and perfectly well verſed in the hiſtory and antiquities of Mecklenburg: that he is alſo poſſeſſed of a great variety of printed books and manuſcripts relating to thoſe ſubjects; and conſequently a fit perſon to conſult with, in caſe I wanted

any farther lights or aſſiſtance. Baron Dewitz was preſent, and ſaid it was by all means proper I ſhould go; and that he would deſire young M. Oertz, a relation of baron Jaſſmund, to bear me company. I returned his highneſs a great many thanks for the obliging intimation, and ſaid I would ſet out as ſoon as M. Oertz was ready. The baron ſaid it ſhould be the next day, and he would take care to acquaint that young gentleman with the duke's intention. I have given you an account, in a former letter, of M. Oertz, who is brother to the baron of that name, gentleman of the bed-chamber to the duke. I ſhall only repeat to you here, that he is one of the beſt-humoured gentlemen I ever was in company with.

Early the next morning I breakfaſted as uſual with baron Dewitz, when he told me that he had ordered a chariot of his own to carry me to Redlin, and had ſent to M. Oertz, who was ready to go with me. By nine o'clock M. Oertz came, and we ſet out immediately. The journey was ſhort; for Redlin is not above eight miles from Strelitz. The firſt part of the road is very ſandy, but we ſoon got into a pleaſant wood belonging to the duke: within a mile or two of Redlin the country opened, and afforded an agreeable proſpect. We reached Redlin by eleven, and drove to baron Jaſſmund's houſe. M. Oertz ordered

his footman to knock at the door, and to acquaint the baron that Dr. Nugent from London was come to pay him a viſit. I own I thought this a very abſurd way of introducing me; but M. Oertz, being lively and facetious, would have it ſo, and ſaid he would anſwer for the propriety of the meſſage. The ſervant found the baron at home, and the anſwer was, that I was welcome to Redlin, and he ſhould be very glad to ſee me In two or three minutes the baron himſelf came to the door, but I muſt own made a whimſical appearance. He is a tall gentleman, of a thin habit of body, with good features, and a ruddy countenance; but his apparel was ſo mean, that I took him at firſt for a worn-out game-keeeper. He was dreſſed in an old green frock, a tattered old hat, his wig without powder, and an old pair of boots. Tho' he is not much above ſixty, I imagined him to be between ſeventy and eighty, by reaſon of his long beard, which I believe was of a fortnight's growth. Notwithſtanding this uncouth appearance, he ſhewed himſelf the polite gentleman, in his manner of reception and welcoming me to his habitation. The houſe is large and commodious, but not at all handſome; for the nobility of this country are ſatisfied with conveniency, and few of them aim at elegance or beauty of architecture in

their country houſes. After compliments were over, he ordered coffee, and Madam de Jaſſmund made her appearance. She is a very polite lady, of the noble family of Pleſſe, and though ſtricken in years ſtill preſerves the remains of beauty. M. Oertz having explained the motive of my viſit, the baron very politely promiſed me all the aſſiſtance in his power; modeſtly adding, it could not anſwer his wiſhes, as he was grown old, and retired from the world; that his memory began to fail him, but that I was welcome to any papers or books in his poſſeſſion. We chatted thus for ſome time, when the baron propoſed to us to take a turn before dinner, in order to ſee the village and its environs. The propoſal being agreed to, he carried us to a neighbouring eminence, from whence we had a view of the village of Redlin, and of a fine fruitful country. The village is pretty large, and the houſes or cottages make a tolerable appearance: it is delightfully ſituated in a fruitful plain between two lakes. On the other ſide of the leſſer lake ſtands Wantzka, a pleaſant hamlet belonging to the duke of Strelitz, and formerly remarkable for a Ciſtertian abbey. The baron is poſſeſſed of a very large eſtate in this country, conſiſting of ſeven lordſhips, all improved lands. He ſeemed to take a great pleaſure in pointing out to me the extent

tent and variety of his poſſeſſions, which render him one of the moſt opulent noblemen in this country. Yet he lives like a gentleman-farmer, ſeldom goes beyond his own grounds, and applies himſelf intirely to agriculture. He is reckoned ingenious in making ſluices, and draining of wet lands. He has two ſons, both of age, and accompliſhed young gentlemen. They have been educated at Berlin, but are now upon a tour of pleaſure to Straſburg. From this appearance of circumſtances, I thought baron Jaſſmund a moſt happy man; being poſſeſſed of a great eſtate, enjoying good health, bleſſed with an amiable lady, two fine ſons, and an accompliſhed young lady for his daughter. I told him my thoughts, and as he is a ſcholar, repeated to him the well known lines of Horace, *Beatus ille qui procul negotiis*, &c. which I apprehended could, if to any one, be juſtly applied to a perſon in his ſituation. He ſighed and ſaid I was much miſtaken. It is true, that he had a good eſtate, and thought he ſhould be happy in ſpending his decline in retirement; but theſe were deluſive dreams, and the very country life, from which he promiſed himſelf ſuch felicity, had fruſtrated his expectations; that a terrible mortality raged among the cattle, eſpecially on his eſtate, where it had made great havock; that the ſeaſon was ſo very dry, he could not ſow his wheat, which would be a great diſappointment; that his eſtate was hemmed in on all

ſides, by the duke's demeſnes, which often involved him in diſputes with his highneſs's ſtewards or bailiffs about breaches of privilege or treſpaſſes. "*A-propos*, ſaid he to me, I have heard that the kings of England have no crown lands; I could wiſh our dukes were on the ſame footing, and that they had a public allowance, in the nature of your civil liſt, ſufficient to maintain their dignity." Thus he went on murmuring and complaining, and at the ſame time walked very faſt, and over ploughed lands. For my part, I was heartily tired of ſuch rough exerciſe, being a good deal heavier than either the baron or my young companion M. Oertz. I ſweated to ſuch a degree that I could bear it no longer, and I was obliged to tell the baron, that I ſhould be glad to come to a place of reſt. M. Oertz laughed very heartily; but the baron begged pardon, and immediately turned back the ſhorteſt way to Redlin. As we entered the village, we ſaw a common fellow with a dog; at which the baron ſeemed to be greatly exaſperated, and told the man, that if he did not take his dog away forthwith, he would give orders to have him ſhot. The man ſubmiſſively declared the dog would do no harm, but the baron was inexorable. I enquired into the cauſe of ſo much indignation; and he told me, that during the preſent mortality of the horned cattle, many people, inſtead of burying

burying the carcaſes, give them to the dogs, which ſpreads the infection; neither do they bury the hides, but expoſe them to the ſun, after which they are ſold to the tanners; that the duke had given orders to have the carcaſes with the hides buried deep under ground; but thoſe orders were too often eluded. This converſation led us to his door, when dinner was juſt ready to be ſerved up. Our entertainment was elegant, a ſoup and two courſes, with choice of good wines: the Burgundy eſpecially was excellent. I obſerved a great deal of plate, and a tea-table intirely of that metal. Madam de Jaſſmund, as I mentioned to you before, is a moſt complaiſant lady, and perfect miſtreſs of the ceremonies of the table.

In the courſe of converſation the baron mentioned ſeveral anecdotes of his own life, which were very entertaining. Among others, he told me that he had been at Hanover, upon a deputation from the ſtates of Stargard, to king George II. That at this ſame time a country farmer had committed ſome act of violence on the king's horſes and hounds, which had broke through his grounds; and that the duke of Newcaſtle (who had come over from England with the king) happening to be at table when the thing was mentioned, ſeemed to be very angry, and adviſed his Majeſty to

puniſh

puniſh the farmer for his inſolence. The king ſmiled, and deſired him to remember liberty and property, to which his ſubjects of Hanover were equally intitled with thoſe of England. Talking of the king of Pruſſia, he told me that he had been informed of noblemen in Brandenburg, who diſliking ſome of that prince's late proceedings (how juſtly he would not pretend to ſay) had taken a reſolution to ſell their eſtates, and remove to Mecklenburg, where they would be under a free government; but that the king found means to prevent them. Among other inſtances he mentioned that of baron Greyffenberg, who had actually diſpoſed of his eſtate, and retired to this duchy; but the king being apprized of ſuch a ſtep, ordered the money to be ſtopped; ſo that M. Greyffenberg was obliged to return, and ſettle again in Brandenburg, greatly to his diſadvantage. He mentioned this as an extraordinary policy in that monarch, to prevent the depopulation of Brandenburg, which certainly would be the conſequence, were he to allow the migration of his ſubjects.

In diſcourſing about the nobility of Mecklenburg, he enlarged upon their privileges, and ſeemed very fond of curtailing the duke's prerogative. But he lamented greatly the cuſtom of gavel-kind, apprehending that it will be

be the ruin of all the ancient families: for by dividing their paternal eſtates, their revenues are daily diminiſhed; and luxury increaſing in the midſt of poverty, they either become dependent on the dukes for preferment at court, or are obliged to go abroad for employment. That, for his part, he had often adviſed the nobility to enact a new law, for eſtabliſhing the right of primogeniture, as the only means of preſerving their eſtates, and their independence; but all to no purpoſe, ſo abſurdly tenacious are they of their old cuſtoms. In the mean time he obſerved, that the duke's power was increaſing daily by œconomy, good management, and purchaſes; ſo that the nobility, theſe were his words, are all in danger of being ſwallowed up, or, which is the ſame thing, of being reduced to beggary.

Our converſation fell afterwards upon the hiſtory of Mecklenburg, with which the baron is perfectly acquainted. He was ſo polite as to ſhew me his library, which, among other ſubjects, contained a very large number of printed and manuſcript tracts relating to the hiſtory of this country. The printed books of value I had already ſeen; but for the ſight of ſome manuſcripts, and the uſe he has allowed me to make of them, I muſt acknowledge my obligations. The whole of his converſation was entertaining and inſtructive; and I had great reaſon to be pleaſed with

with my journey. But our ſatisfaction was interrupted by the baron's complaining of a noiſe and pain in his ear, which gave him great uneaſineſs. His father, he ſaid, died of an apoplexy, and he apprehended that he ſhould meet with the ſame fate. We did all we could to keep up his ſpirits, but in vain; and I had like to make things worſe, by innocently aſking him a queſtion, which he took in a wrong ſenſe. I thought bleeding would be good for him, and therefore aſked him whether there was never a barber in the village. You muſt know that barbers in this country are the only ſurgeons, as they were formerly in England; and I meant no more than to know whether there was a ſurgeon on the ſpot to bleed him; but the old gentleman, conſcious of his long beard, apprehended I meant, whether there was never a barber to ſhave him. This made him bluſh, and he anſwered in a very low tone, that there was no ſuch perſon in the village. I endeavoured to ſet him right, but all to no purpoſe; he continued very low-ſpirited, which M. Oertz and I perceiving, thought proper to decamp; though we had intended, if this accident had not happened, to ſtay there all night. After returning the baron and his lady thanks for their great civility, we ſet off for New Strelitz, and arrived there by ſupper-time. M. Oertz and I ſpent the remainder of the evening at my lodging,

lodging, where we made many reflections on the day's adventure. The next morning, at breakfaſt, I made a report of my journey to Baron Dewitz, who was highly diverted with my queſtion about the barber, and at dinner told it to the duke, who laughed very heartily.

A few days after, I had an invitation from the ſuperintendant, M. Maſch, to go with him to the village of Dewitz, where he was to ordain a young prieſt, lately preſented to that living. I mentioned it to the duke and to baron Dewitz, who approved of the propoſal, as I ſhould have an opportunity of ſeeing a pleaſant part of Mecklenburg, and the manner of ordaining prieſts in the Lutheran religion. The Baron himſelf was alſo to be there, on account of his being *compatronus* of that church, or pariſh, in conjunction with baron Gentzkow, who is lord of the manor of Dewitz. It is a common thing in this country, that manors which bear the name of certain families, ſhall belong to families of another name. Perhaps it has been owing to the change of property, by purchaſe, or intermarriage. Thus the manor of Dewitz belongs to baron Gentzkow; and the manor of Gentzkow is the property of baron Barleben, father of madam de Dewitz.

The ſuperintendant and I ſet out from New Strelitz, on a Saturday morning, in a very handſome coach, with four good horſes, belonging to baron Gentzkow. The weather continued

tinued very fine, as it has done ever ſince I have been in this country. By eleven o'clock we came to a pleaſant village called Weſtien, two miles from Strelitz. The country round it is very good, and every thing wears the appearance of plenty. The village and eſtate belong to the duke of Strelitz, who purchaſed it lately of the family of Peccatel. The ſuperintendant told me, that this purchaſe was ſtrongly oppoſed by the nobleſſe of the country, from a jealouſy of the duke's growing power; and that even the marſhal of the court, Baron Zeſterfleth, had been againſt it; but that it was determined upon by the advice of M. Seip, who made uſe of the ſuperintendant's influence to perſuade the late ducheſs, his ſerene highneſs's mother, to come into that meaſure. The village of Weſtien is prettily built, and has a new chapel for the inhabitants, with a handſome houſe for the ſteward. From Weſtien we came to the village of Blumenholtz, and thence to Uſadel, a hamlet belonging to baron Bredow, and about ſix miles from Strelitz. Here we were upon a high ground, and had a fine proſpect of the Tollen lake, and of the village of Prilwitz, the ſeat of baron Bredow. As we paſſed by a heap of ſtones on a hill to the right, the ſuperintendant obſerved to me, that he apprehended that ſpot to have been the ſite of the ancient city of Rhetre. From thence we proceeded to Nemerow, a pleaſant village, which I paſſed

through in my way from New Brandenburg to Strelitz. The ſuperintendant had ſome bread with him, and a bottle of wine, which we eat and drank by the way; after which he ſmoked a pipe in the coach, for he conſtantly carried a tinder box about him to light his pipe. By three o'clock, we arrived at Stargard, and alighted at the Rev. M. Gentzmer's, præpoſitus or rector of that pariſh. I have given you ſome account, in a former letter, of the rev. M. Gentzmer, and mentioned to you that he had been præceptor to her majeſty, and the princes her brothers. He was born at a place called Welſickendorff, in the marck of Brandenburg: though fifty-two years of age, he is married to a very young gentlewoman, daughter of M. Siemſen, equerry to the duke, and has three or four children. His chief ſtudy has been natural philoſophy, in which he is eminent, particularly in what regards lithography and foſſils. Of theſe he has a very fine collection, ſuperior, perhaps, to that of any private perſon in the whole country. There is not a better natured man living, always good humoured, and even facetious in company.

Our reception was moſt hoſpitable and polite; we had a genteel dinner, good wine, and a hearty welcome. Mrs. Gentzmer is not only agreeable in her behaviour, but handſome in her perſon. The parſonage-houſe being

ing near the church-yard, we went, after dinner, to see a bell-founder melting down the old metal found in the rubbish of the church, which was burnt down, together with the greatest part of the town, the beginning of July, 1758. The fire happened at nine of the morning, when most of the inhabitants were gone to a fair in New Brandenburg. The furnace was very well constructed; and the bell-founder, who was come from Berlin, seemed to understand his business perfectly well. The walls of the church were standing, but the inside had been intirely consumed.

Stargard gives its name to the circle belonging to the duke of Strelitz: and is a Vendic word, which signifies an old town. It is indeed a place of great antiquity, and was formerly the capital of a duchy. The district belonging to it was once subject to the margraves of Brandenburg, but came by marriage to the house of Mecklenburg. The town is small, and that part which escaped the late fire is but indifferently built. On the ruins of the other part, new houses have been erected, which make a pretty good appearance; so that it seems like many other towns, to have arisen more beautiful out of its ashes.

Above the town is an old ducal palace, seated on a very high hill, which commands an extensive prospect. Joining to the palace is a lofty

tower, formerly a conſiderable fortreſs. The ſituation of this place on ſuch an eminence, occaſioned the following diſtich:

Turrigeras inter celſiſque in montibus arces
Extulit antiquum Stargaris alta caput.

Here the dukes of Mecklenburg Stargard, a collateral branch, now extinct, uſed to reſide in former times; but having no ſpring on the top, the caſtle has been deſerted by the princes of this family, and is now going to ruin.

After viewing the town, we went up the hill, which is very ſteep, to ſee the caſtle, and were agreeably ſurpriſed to find baron Dewitz and his lady. They had dined with M. de Gaſſertſheim, lord of the manor of Nedemin, who reſides there in quality of governor. This is a tall portly gentleman, of a fair complexion, and pretty much marked with the ſmall-pox. The baron was going to his ſeat at a neighbouring village called Kolpin, where he has a good eſtate; and intended to be the next morning at Dewitz, to aſſiſt at the ceremony of the ordination. We were both pleaſed at this accidental interview, and, after drinking coffee, he and his lady took a turn with me round the walls of the caſtle, to enjoy the proſpect of a well cultivated country. As they had a good way to go that evening,

they took their leave of us, after deſiring me to ſee the famous ſpring, called *Jungfer brun*, at the foot of the hill. I promiſed him I would; and accordingly I went with the ſuperintendant and M. Gentzmer, the moment of his departure. The ſpring is very clear, and was walled round with ſtone by Elizabeth ducheſs of Mecklenburg, daughter of the king of Denmark. It is called the *Jungfer brun*, which ſignifies the maiden ſpring, from an adventure ſaid to have happened here to a young damſel, and exactly ſimilar to the ſtory of Pyramus and Thiſbe.

Having ſatisfied my curioſity with the ſight of this famous ſpring, I returned with the other two gentlemen to the caſtle, intending to take leave of M. de Gaffertſheim, and to lodge that night at M. Gentzmer's, who had given us the ſtrongeſt invitation. M. de Gaffertſheim would by no means conſent to it, but inſiſted that the ſuperintendant and I ſhould be his gueſts for that night. We were obliged to comply, and had no reaſon to find fault with our entertainment. M. Gentzmer ſtaid the evening with us, which we ſpent very chearfully, being regaled with a handſome ſupper, and a bottle of good wine. The converſation in great part turning on lithography, M. Gentzmer had an opportunity of diſplaying his erudition. Among other articles, he fell upon that of the belemnites, and gave us ſome

remarks, which I thought worth preſerving.

The belemnites, he ſaid, are ſtones of a conical ſhape, or rather petrified ſea-worms, called holothurici, and frequently found in theſe parts. On being broke, the ſpina may be diſtinguiſhed in the middle, with the fleſh extending in ſtria to the circumference. They are of three different colours, yellow, brown, and black: of the yellow, ſome are tranſparent, and border on white, and in tranſparency and electricity come very near amber, attracting like ſubſtances, as leaves, &c. All of them, when rubbed, emit a ſmell like the marmor ſuillum, and other animal petrefactions. The principal of their conſtituent parts are a calcareous earth, and a volatile alkali. It is of ſovereign uſe in the cure of many diſorders; and that kind is the beſt for medical purpoſes which has the moſt pungent ſmell, as containing moſt volatile ſalt. Its medical virtues are the following:

It is in high commendation for the gravel in the kidnies. But it is uſed chiefly in cureing the diſorders of horſes.

1. Pulverized belemnites are good for diſorders in the eyes of horſes.

2. To a horſe which is beginning to have the glanders, give in the morning faſting, half an ounce of pulverized belemnites in freſh ſpring water; continue this four days, and it will get the better of the diſorder.

3. In caſe of a conſtipation, give a whole ounce in a pint of good vinegar. This will operate ſtrongly on the beaſt; but after repeating it for ſome days, the good effects will declare themſelves.

4. In a ſtrangury, there is no better remedy than an ounce of the ſame powder.

5. An ounce of pulveriſed belemnite mixed up with water, is an excellent remedy for the cholic; likewiſe in caſes where the proper nature of the diſtemper cannot be aſcertained, the belemnite powder has often been uſed with great ſucceſs.

Another no ſmall recommendation of the belemnite is, that in ſeveral diſorders of horſes it operates as an excellent diuretic, and withal is a very cheap medicine.

We all acknowledged ourſelves greatly obliged to M. Gentzmer for theſe diſcoveries, which were ſuch at leaſt to me; but as it grew late, this gentleman was obliged to return to town, and the ſuperintendant and I withdrew to our apartments. Before he went to bed, he filled another pipe, and then walked about the room, ruminating on the ſermon he was to preach the next day at the ordination. This, he told me, is his uſual way of compoſing; he ſeldom commits any thing to paper, but meditates over his pipe, and has his diſcourſe by heart the next morning. He has certainly a prodigious memory.

mory. I ſat with him about a quarter of an hour, and then left him to his meditations.

We roſe early the next morning, and after taking leave of M. Gaffertſheim, went down to town, and breakfaſted with M. Gentzmer. The weather being fine, it was delightful travelling. We ſet out from Stargard on Sunday morning, at half an hour after ten, and a little after eleven we reached the village of Dewitz. The country all the way is fruitful: moſt of it is ploughed land, interſperſed with a few thickets. The village of Dewitz is ſmall, and contains nothing worth notice, except baron Gentzkow's houſe and farm. The ſuperintendant introduced me to the baron, who received me very politely, and ſpoke pretty good Engliſh, for which he is indebted intirely to his own application, having never been in England. He is a ſhort gentleman, of a very good countenance, and fair complexion. He is younger brother to baron Gentzkow at Strelitz, and gentleman of the bed-chamber to the duke. The houſe is commodious, but not handſome; the barns, however, for the horned cattle, are the largeſt and beſt I ever ſaw, and really ſtruck me with ſurprize. Another thing that ſurprized me was to ſee my friend captain Anſtruther there, together with captain Pleſſe, having not heard of their intention to make this tour.

It ſeems they had come to this reſolution the evening before, and ſet out that very morning at five, in order to be preſent at the ordination. After coffee, we went out to behold a ſad ſpectacle viz. the poor cattle in the barns, the greateſt part of which we found dead, and others expiring, to the great and inexpreſſible concern of the baron. His loſs on this occaſion is computed at 4000 rixdollars. It is amazing what a number of cattle the gentlemen have in this country, how clean and neat they are kept, and how handſome and commodious their ſtalls. The melancholy ſight caſt a damp upon all our ſpirits, and the baron was ſo dejected, that we ſympathiſed with him on ſo diſmal an occaſion.

About eleven o'clock, baron Dewitz and his lady came from Kolpin, and after a few compliments we all ſet out for the pariſh-church. It is a handſome building, with a commodious gallery for the baron and his family. The ſervice was very long, I really believe it laſted three hours. The ſuperintendant was aſſiſted by M. Gentzmer, and another clergyman. We had two ſermons; the firſt preached by M. Gentzmer, the ſecond by the ſuperintendant, which more properly was an exhortation to the new prieſt, directing him in the diſcharge of his duty. Both were excellent diſcourſes. The ordination

was

was made by the impoſition of hands, the ſuperintendant and the other two clergymen performing that ceremony all three at the ſame time. The new prieſt's name was Seidel; the former parſon had been ſet aſide for ſome fault found in his conduct; but they allowed him 100 dollars a year. The weather was exceſſive cold; and as I was not guarded againſt it by my dreſs, I quivered in ſuch a manner, that captain Anſtruther kindly taking pity on me, made me put on his furred night-gown.

The ceremony being over, we returned to baron Gentzkow's, where I was very glad to get into a warm room. This was alſo the caſe of baron Dewitz, who happened to be incommoded with an ugly cold. We ſat down to dinner fourteen in company, among whom was major Geitz, a Pruſſian officer, with his two ſons. The major has an eſtate in the neighbourhood, and was there upon a viſit. Baron Gentzkow had provided a handſome entertainment for his company, and did all he could to put us in ſpirits; but he wanted ſome himſelf and it is impoſſible for company to be chearful, unleſs the maſter of the houſe ſets the example. Our converſation turned chiefly on the dreadful diſtemper, which was making ſuch havock in Mecklenburg. Some talked of the cauſes of it, and aſſigned it to noxious

herbs, which the cattle feed upon in different pastures. Others imputed it to a pestilential air, similar to that which infects the human species. Others affirmed, from the cutting up of many beasts which died of the distemper, that the cause of it appeared to be a ventimous and corrosive matter, gathering in the stomach or bowels, which eat through the very intestines, and likewise occasioned inflammations in the body. These disquisitions were of very little use or comfort to the poor gentleman, who had lost all his cattle; and as it began to grow late, we all thought of taking our leave of him. The baron and his lady set out for Kolpin; captain Anstruther and captain Pleffe went to pay a visit to baron Bredow, at Prilwitz, where they intended to stay all night; and the superintendant, M. Gentzmer, and I, resolved to return to Stargard. Baron Gentzkow, indeed, pressed us very kindly to accept of beds; but we agreed among ourselves, that it would be better by far to pass our evening chearfully at Stargard, than to tarry any longer in a house of sorrow.

We therefore set out from Dewitz about six in the evening, and returned by the same road to Stargard. Mrs. Gentzmer gave us a cordial reception, being agreeably disappointed at our coming, for she did not expect us that night. She got us a good supper, and we spent our time very chearfully. M. Gaffertsheim came down from

from the castle to see us. Before and after supper, we employed ourselves chiefly in viewing M. Gentzmer's museum. Here he displayed an amazing variety of natural rarities, especially in the article of fossils; and, though we sat up till one, he had not exhibited above one half of his treasure. The day following we returned to it again, and when we had gone through the whole, he shewed us a collection of excellent prints. His library is very well stocked with books of divinity and natural philosophy. Among other things, I was pleased with the sight of the New Testament in the Syriac language, published in 1555, by John Alle Widman Stadius, chancellor of Vienna. The copy belonged to the celebrated Melancthon, in whose hand-writing are a few lines mentioning this book to have been presented to him *a reverendo viro Jacobo Rungio*. But the greatest curiosity was the New Testament in Greek, printed at Hagenau, in 1521, by Anselmus Badensis. This was the celebrated Luther's own copy, in whose hand-writing are the following pious verses, written on a blank page, in 1542.

In

In tenebris noſtræ et denſa caligine mentis,
Cum nihil eſt toto pectore conſilii,
Turbati ſrigimus, Deus, ad te lumina cordis;
Noſtra tuamque fides ſolius orat opem,
Tu rege conſiliis actus pater optime noſtros,
Noſtrum opus ut laudi ſerviat omne tuæ.

After finiſhing our ſurvey of our good hoſt's rarities, we took our leave of him and his lady, who, as the weather was very cold, inſiſted on our drinking a cordial upon our going into the coach. M. Gentzmer was very merry on the occaſion, and ſaid it was his cuſtom every morning to drink a little *trambambuli*, a jocular name for a dram. We ſet out for Strelitz about eleven; and when we came to the hill over-againſt Prilwitz, the weather being very fine, the ſuperintendant propoſed walking a little way, and lighting a freſh pipe. There cannot be a more chearful and agreeable gentleman in the world than Mr. Maſch; ſo that you may judge how happy I have been in his company. Among other topics of converſation, we fell upon dreams; but I was ſurprized to find that ſo learned and ſenſible a man ſhould believe there was any ſuch thing as divination by the phantaſms of ſleep.

Dreams, he ſaid, are ſent from above, and philoſophers in all ages have looked upon them

as a medium or channel of divination. Pythagoras, according to Porphyry, made a particular profeſſion of interpreting dreams, an art which he had learned among the Egyptians and Chaldeans. Socrates foreſaw, from a dream, that he was to die in three days, as may be ſeen in Diogenes Laertius. Plato and Xenophon, his diſciples, ſhew the credit they give to dreams, by relating them often, and taking notice of their being verified. The ſtoics were conſtantly of opinion that dreams come from the immortal gods, to enlighten us in regard to future tranſactions. There are many inſtances in ſcripture, of prediction by dreams, ſuch as thoſe of Joſeph, Daniel, &c. But to come to the point, the ſuperintendant himſelf has had ſeveral dreams which were exactly verified, particularly one with regard to his father; a ſecond concerning the preſent duke of Strelitz; a third about a conteſt between marſhal Zellerfloth and another perſon at court, which he foreſaw in a dream, together with the manner of reconciling them; a fourth with reſpect to a clergyman who was to ſucceed to a certain living; he ſaw him in a dream the firſt time, and knew him afterwards to be the very identical perſon.

I took upon me, notwithſtanding theſe aſſertions, to combat the ſuperintendant's opinion. It is not to be denied but there were formerly

dreams

dreams sent from God, as appears by the instances mentioned in scripture; but those instances were very rare, and attended with such circumstances, as prevented any possibility of being mistaken; and properly amounted to a supernatural inspiration. These inspirations are no more; and I do not believe the superintendant himself pretends to be inspired. Therefore, considering dreams in a natural light, they depend on the temperament and humours of body, on the quality and quantity of meat and drink, and on other qualities quite foreign from any knowledge of futurity. But to come to some proof: were dreams sent from above, they would, in all probability, be bestowed on the wise and the virtuous only, whereas they indifferently happen to all. Besides, they would happen to the human species only; but it seems they are incidental to brutes. Again, if the Deity were pleased to give us an insight into futurity, would it not be more reasonable to imagine he would do it by a clear and evident vision, than by such an enigmatical and intricate channel as that of dreams? These were the arguments of the Lyceum against divination by dreams; arguments not answered by the reveries of other philosophers. But another great objection arises from the manner of interpreting dreams, about which there are no certain rules. Some are for interpreting them by analogy; that is,

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by the relation between things dreamt of, and the event which is to happen. Thus, when Cesar was in Spain, he dreamt that he was committing incest with his mother; and the manner of explaining it was, that he should be master of the whole earth, the common parent of mankind. Others maintain that dreams ought to be explained in quite an opposite sense to that in which they appear; thus, if you dream of death or riches, you are to draw a sure inference of life and poverty. This diversity of opinions shews the nullity of the thing. Is it likely that if the Deity wanted to acquaint us with future events by dreams, there would be occasion for interpreters, who are not agreed about their manner of explaining? We should laugh, said Cicero, if the Carthaginians and Spaniards were to speak before the Roman senate without an interpreter; and yet we render the gods equally ridiculous, when we pretend they reveal themselves to us in such clouds of obscurity. *Expledatur hæc quoque somniorum divinatio pariter cum cæteris. Nam ut vere loquamur, superstitio fusa per gentes oppressit omnium fere animos, atque hominum imbecillitatem occupavit.* With regard to some dreams that proved true in the event, it is not at all surprizing this should be the case out of an infinite number. Suppose a blind man were to shoot off a thousand arrows, is it impossible but one out of so many will hit the mark?

mark? There are men of ſome complexions, whoſe imagination in the night is diſturbed with ſuch a multitude of forms and viſions, that one or other may happen to riſe an idea of ſome future event. But as people take notice only of theſe on account of their ſingularity, the others are neglected and forgotten; and what is merely the effect of chance, they vainly or ſuperſtitiouſly attribute to the Deity.

This converſation laſted till we got to Strelitz, which was after two, and being too late to go to court, I dined with the ſuperintendant. The evening I gave an account of my expedition to the duke, who was greatly pleaſed with it. The next morning I breakfaſted with baron Dewitz, who was come from Kolpin, but had left his lady for a few days at her father's, baron Burſcheben, at Gentzkow. Upon my return to my lodging, I was agreeably ſurpriſed to find M. Piſtorius, who was come from New Brandenburg to meet M. Buckholtz, the hiſtorian, at Old Strelitz, and deſired the favour of my company. I mentioned to you before, that M. Buckholtz had undertaken this journey on purpoſe to ſee me. He is rector of Lichen, a ſmall town in the Marquiſate of Brandenburg. I was pleaſed with the news, and with the good nature of my worthy friend M. Piſtorius, who had been at all this trouble on my account. Captain Anſtru-

ther

ther and captain Graham happening to come in at that very time, we agreed to walk together to Old Strelitz. These two gentlemen did not stay long with us, but turned back, intending to dine at court; but M. Pistorius and I went to M. Buckholtz's brother, who is master of the *gymnasium*, or public school.

We found M. Buckholtz arrived, and I was introduced to him by M. Pistorius. He is a short, thick-set gentleman, of a swarthy complexion, and unfortunately has lost an eye. I mentioned to you before, that his abridgement of the history of Mecklenburg is a very pretty performance; and that he has had the thanks of the present king of Prussia, in that prince's own hand-writing, for the History of the electorate of Brandenburg. After compliments were over we sat down to dinner, and I may truly affirm that we had a *convivium philosophicum*. Between two such gentlemen as M. Pistorius, and M. Buckholtz, I could not but greatly improve. An infinite number of questions were started concerning the history of Mecklenburg, and the gentlemen removed several difficulties entirely to my satisfaction. After this very entertaining conversation, we took a turn about the town, and from thence adjourned to M. Pistorius's lodging: this was at a handsome house belonging to a certain Winnemen, where the good, prudic entertained us with an excellent supper,

and

and plenty of champagne. Burgomaſter Tangatz was of the party, and inſiſted on my taking a bed at his houſe. It was late before we broke up, and I accepted of the burgomaſter's offer. Early the next morning, I received a viſit from M. Piſtorius and M. Buckholtz, and we breakfaſted all together. Literary converſation being renewed, I found that M. Buckholtz is a poet as well as hiſtorian, and has written, at the requeſt of prince Charles, the queen's brother, an epic poem, in blank verſe, intitled Pribiſlaus, in imitation of the famous Klopſtock. He ingenuouſly told me, that this poem had been ſeverely cenſured by that great critic, my friend M. Reinhard; *Vapulavi ſub ejus ferula*, were his words, at the ſame time laughing very heartily. He mentioned to me alſo, that he had written a German poem on the death of our Queen's mother, which he would ſend me the firſt opportunity. But as he was obliged to return that forenoon to Lichen, and M. Piſtorius to New Brandenburg, we parted with regret, after many proteſtations of friendſhip.

I walked back to Strelitz, where I arrived in time to dine at court. I gave an account to his highneſs, and to baron Dewitz, of the particulars of the interview. The afternoon I ſpent in accompanying the captains Anſtruther and Graham in ſeveral viſits, and, among others, to M. Scheven, who produced his ſtore of choice

wines,

wines. I have given you this gentleman's character; ſo that you need not be ſurpriſed when I aſſure you it was with difficulty we could make our eſcape from him. That evening there was a ball, when the court appeared in its uſual chearfulneſs and gaiety.

A few days after, I received a letter from M. Buckholtz, with a manuſcript copy of the German poem which he had promiſed me, on the death of the late ducheſs, her preſent majeſty's mother. The poem being in German, a language you do not underſtand, it would be idle to ſend it you; but his letter to me is ſo very polite, that I cannot reſiſt the temptation of giving you a tranſcript of it.

Viro morum comitate, doctrinaque præſtantia excellentiſſimo, Dn. Thomæ Nugent, D. A.

S. P.

Samuel Buckholtz.

Feſtos inter ſolenneſque referendus erit mihi jucundiſſimus ille dierum, quo tecum, tanto viro, Strelitzii convenire contigit. Adhuc plena mens eſt gaudio, vidiſſe noſſeque Nugentum, Piſtoriumque, rerum Megapolitanarum indagatores diligentiſſimos, ſcriptoreſque celeberrimos, et illum quidem eo majorem, quanto majoris molis aggreſſus ſit opus, peregrinus in iſto campo, prædomeſtico. Aſt non tu pateris exercere modeſtiam

tuam laudibus : non ergo in faciem tibi cantabo merita tua poſt te canenda. Solum confiteri liceat, quanta perfuſus ſim admiratione indolis tuæ Britannicæ admodum ſuperque generoſæ ; vidi in te virtutem maxime ingenuam, totam veræ amicitiæ factam. Primus, quem vidi, inter Anglos, prejudicium maxime honorabile nationis menti intuliſti meæ. Solum favorem tuum exſpectanti, quem venerabilem ſatis putarem fortunam, totus eras, venerabiliorque fautore, amicus, et ille quaſi jam multorum annorum. Felix ego nimium, felixque magis, ut poſſit tota circum vicinia ſibi fingere, qui deſcendere potuerit virtus tanta extranea ad virum noſtræ gentis, minoris dignitatis, ut quis in illum attendat. Gratum in me gaudium eo magis excedit cancellos vulgares, cum talia vulgus ignoret æſtimare. Piſtorius noſter novit; Piſtorio te ſemper prædicabo. Et optarim ex animo, favori tuo inæſtimabili, aut ſi mavis, amicitiæ tuæ generoſiſſimæ per ævum eſſe commendatus. O vir maxime, ne tranſeas quæſo mare, niſi memoriam quandam commilitonis tui Germani, quamvis minoris dignitatis, famæque et meriti, tecum trahendo. Et ſic omnia bonorum omnium, quos vidiſti, vota te comitentur et impleantur. Tuque, o

Navis, quæ tibi creditum
Debes hiſtoricum, finibus Anglicis
Reddas incolumem, precor,

ne magna nos fallat illa exſpectatio glorioſæ conſummationis operis Nugentini.

Quod

Quod reliquum eſt, ſpecimen illud hic habes conatuum poetici, de quo tibi narravi. Hiſtoricum prodet ubique aliquidem, at forſan indigerat commentariis, quibuſdam in locis. An autem feliciter ſatis veſtigia Miltoni, ſive Klopſtockii ſecutus ſim, ipſe judicabis. Non mihi tantam arrogo laudem, alioquin laureæ non avidus, licet olim perſuadere mihi paſſus ſim principem ſereniſſimum Carolum, fratrem reginæ tuæ, ut epice canerem Pribiſlaum. Cecini, tuba tamen non Miltoniana, ſed rauciori, et rhythmis tunc minus grata, quia Klopſtockius regnabat apud Germanos poetas. Jam rhythmi apud nos civitati ſunt reſtituti, mutilato Klopſtockii imperio parte poteſtatis, et æquo jure rurſum utuntur cum æmulis. At, nefas fatigare te garrulitate ejuſmodi; vetant leges, quas favor tuus ponit. Peccavi; ſed idem tuus favor et amicitia didicit ignoſcere. Verbum non amplius addam. Vale. Lichenæ Ucarorum. ix. *Cal. Novembr. M.DCC.LXVI.*

This letter, I think, is a ſtrong ſpecimen of the politeneſs of the Germans; I give it to you as ſuch, far from imagining myſelf intitled to the high compliments that gentleman is pleaſed to beſtow on me. I believe you are pretty well tired with my excurſions at preſent; I ſhall therefore allow you ſome time to reſt, and reſerve the remainder for the next poſt. The weather, though ſtill fine, is growing cold; and as winter is coming on apace, I begin to think of returning to England, where I intend

to give you a full account of many things by word of mouth, which cannot ſo well be committed to writing. Adieu, my dear friend, I hope to ſee you ſoon, and to aſſure you *tete a tete* that

I am,

moſt ſincerely,

Dear Sir, yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER XVII.

Strelitz, November 8, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

SOON after my interview with the very learned gentlemen, M. Buckholtz, and M. Piſtorius, at Old Strelitz, I was invited by baron Bredow, to come and ſee him at his ſeat in Prilwitz. I had heard a good deal of the pleaſantneſs of the ſituation, and moreover been told that I ſhould there behold the ruins of an ancient temple, dedicated to the heathen god Rhadegaſtus. This excited my curioſity, and upon my mentioning it to Baron Dewitz, he approved, by all means, of my going. I ſet out, after dinner, on a Saturday, along with captain Pleſſe. The firſt part of the road, is very ſandy; we went through Weſtien, Blumholtz, and Uſadel, and in an hour and a half, reached Prilwitz. The diſtance is about eight miles. Prilwitz is a very pretty village, pleaſantly ſituated at the extremity of the Tollen lake. The proſpect from thence is moſt charming, a ridge

of fine hills rising on the right and left, and the lake extending to the city of New Brandenburg, which terminates the landscape. We waited upon the baron, and found him over his bottle, with a fine old gentleman, Major Fabianus of Hohen Zeric, and a lawyer, the same whom I had seen before at New Brandenburg, who drinks his bottle very freely, but can talk of nothing except appeals and *gravamina*. The baron, who, as I mentioned to you before, had been one of the deputies of the nobleſſe, to congratulate the duke on the birth of the princeſs of England, received me with open arms, and preſented me to his lady. Never did I ſee ſuch a contraſt between man and wife, the former of a Patagonian ſtature, and the latter almoſt a pigmy. The baron is one of the chearfulleſt men living, generous and hoſpitable, fond of good cheer and convivial merriment. He had loſt all his cattle by the mortality three times ſucceſſively, yet it never affected his mind, and he always preſerved his uſual hilarity. His lady makes up in breeding and good ſenſe the deficiency of her ſize, and her countenance is very agreeable. She ſpeaks French fluently, and is poſſeſſed of ſeveral other accompliſhments, among which I may particularly mention the ſweetneſs of her temper. Indeed the German ladies in general are the beſt tempered in the whole world, the

moſt

moſt complaiſant and even obſequious, to their huſbands. We made but few compliments, as the baron and I were already acquainted; the company went away by dark, even captain Pleſſe was obliged to go, and promiſed to come for me the next day. I ſpent the evening very agreeably with the baron and his lady. The houſe is large and commodious, but not handſome, being an ancient building. The furniture, however, is very good, and contrived in an elegant taſte.

The next morning after breakfaſt, the baron propoſed taking a walk up the neighbouring mount, in order to ſee the famous ruins. It was a fine clear froſt, ſo that we had a charming view of the Tollen lake, and the hanging woods on the ſide of the hills. The mount being very ſteep, I was tired in gaining the ſummit. The baron, and many others of this country, ſuppoſe that the ancient city of Rhetre ſtood on the ſame ſpot as the village of Prilwitz, and that the temple of Rhadegaſtus had been erected on this mount. From what I could obſerve, both at the bottom and on the ſides of the hill, there did not ſeem to be the leaſt veſtige of a temple; but the ditches and ruins of walls and fortifications, plainly indicated the remains of an ancient caſtle. Such caſtles or noblemen's ſeats were very common in the middle ages; and you may remember to have read of moated caſtles in

England in former ages. I told the baron my mind, and he ſeemed greatly diſappointed, for he had ſtrongly pre-conceived that it had been a temple, and had ſome notion of digging there, in order to diſcover hidden treaſure; only he was afraid, he ſaid, the duke, as lord paramount, would come in for ſhare of it. The whole miſtake about this temple of Rhadegaſtus is owing to the notion they have here, that this was the ſite of the ancient city of Rhetre, famous for the worſhip of that heathen deity. But it appears from Adam of Bremen, and Helmoldus, that this could not be; for, according to thoſe ancient hiſtorians, Rhetre was on all ſides ſurrounded by a deep lake, *undique lacu profundo incluſa*, which would not have been the caſe, had that city been ſituated on this ſpot. Beſides, thoſe writers mention that Rhetre was the capital of the Redarii; and it is known that theſe were a tribe of the Slavi, inhabiting the Ucker Marck, in the electorate of Brandenburg. The famous city of Rhetre, the ſeat of idolatry, and eſpecially of the worſhip of Radegaſtus, was taken and utterly deſtroyed by the emperor Otho the Great, and Gero, margrave of Brandenburg, about the year 960.*

After I had fully ſurveyed theſe pretended ruins of a temple, I deſcended the hill along

* See Maſius, *Antiquitates Meaklenburgenſes.*

with the baron, to view his ſtables and garden. The ſtables are very large and convenient, well ſtocked with horſes, which the baron uſes chiefly in huſbandry. The garden is ſpacious, and handſomely laid out. About eleven we went to church, with madam de Bredow, and heard a good ſermon. The church itſelf is very ſmall, and contains nothing remarkable, except the numerous inſcriptions on the tomb-ſtones, by which I found, that this eſtate had paſſed, in no great length of time, through a vaſt number of families. We expected captain Pleſſe to dinner, but were diſappointed. Towards evening, one of the duke's chaiſes came to bring me back to Strelitz, and the ſervant made an apology for captain Pleſſe's not coming, on account of his being indiſpoſed. I took leave of Baron Bredow and his lady, after returning them many thanks for their great civility, and about ſix I got back to Strelitz. It was a ball night, and I was agreeably ſurprized to find at the aſſembly my friend baron Jaſmond's two ſons, who were juſt returned from Straſburg. They are handſome young gentlemen, tall in ſtature, and moſt accompliſhed in their manners. We had a good deal of chat together, and I found they lodged, as well as I, at burgomaſter Strubing's. Baron Dewitz came up to me, and aſked me whether I did not think the elder M. Jaſmund very like the hon. Charles Yorke; I really think the baron is right, and

that

that there cannot be a ſtronger reſemblance. I gave an account of my tour that evening to the duke, who could not help laughing, when I told him that baron Bredow did not care to dig in the mount, leſt his highneſs ſhould come in for ſhare of the treaſure. The two Jaſmunds and I went home in the ſame coach, and I ſat with them above an hour at our inn, where I was agreeably entertained with their polite and ſenſible converſation. They have read a great deal, and take a particular delight in ſtudying the hiſtory and conſtitution of England.

The day following was Strelitz fair, at which the duke intended to be preſent. His highneſs propoſed I ſhould alſo go, and we ſet out immediately after dinner. The duke intending to ſhoot pheaſants by the way, took the captains Norman, Pleſſe, and Schmalanſee, with him in the ſame coach, and counſellor Reinhard and I followed in a chariot. We ſtopped to ſee the pheaſant-walk, about a mile from New Strelitz, and I own it gave me ſingular pleaſure. It is a very large incloſure, walled round like a park, and extremely well ſtocked with pheaſants. After we had taken a turn or two, we proceeded on our journey: about half a mile farther the duke alighted, and ſtepped a little out of the road, attended by the officers, to amuſe himſelf with ſhooting. Counſellor

Rein-

Reinhard and I looked on, neither of us being ſportſmen. In about an hour the duke got into his coach again, and proceeded to Old Strelitz. Burgomaſter Tangatz came to wait upon his highneſs, and invited him to his habitation; but the duke thought proper to ſet up at the poſt-houſe. We then walked about the town, no other ſervants attending his highneſs than two huſſars. There was a very good ſhow of buſineſs, the ſtreets prodigiouſly crowded, and wares of all ſorts expoſed as in England. But I ſaw no drunkenneſs nor riot; every thing ſeemed to be conducted with the greateſt decorum. After his highneſs had gratified his curioſity, he returned to the poſt-houſe, where coffee was prepared, the duke drinking nothing ſtrong between meals. As ſoon as we had finiſhed, we ſet out upon our return, and got to New Strelitz by duſk. I alighted at M. Reinhard's, where I ſpent the beſt part of the evening in literary converſation. I find he does not underſtand Engliſh enough to reliſh our poetry, for he ſpeaks of it with ſome ſlight, and he even holds the immortal Shakeſpear in contempt. This is alſo the caſe of the celebrated M. Voltaire, who, through want of a competent knowledge of the Engliſh language, ſhews himſelf an inadequate judge of the excellence of that inimitable poet. M. Reinhard has other prejudices (for who is without ſome?) particularly he favours

favours the Jews, and conſiders them as uſeful to trade; though the ſhop-keepers throughout the country complain they have no buſineſs becauſe of the Jewiſh pedlars, who hawk all ſorts of commodities, woollen cloths, ſilks, ſtuffs, ſtockings, &c. in every part of the duke's dominions. I do not deny but opulent Jews, men of ſubſtance and underſtanding, may be of ſervice in promoting foreign commerce; but the pedlars and hawkers of that religion, rather hurt the fair trader. This is alſo the opinion of baron Dewitz; yet the contributions raiſed on the Jews are ſo conſiderable, and ſo beneficial to the prince, that it is not thought prudent to make any alteration with regard to thoſe people, and things are likely to run ſome time in the old channel.

The next morning I had an invitation from madam Barnewitz, to ſee her muſæum, where I had an opportunity of admiring a well-choſen collection of natural curioſities. This was begun by her late huſband, and the lady herſelf has ſince improved it. She has alſo an excellent collection of Greek and Roman medals, in good conſervation, with a variety of fine Daniſh and Swediſh coins. One of the greateſt curioſities I beheld at this lady's was her grand-daughter, a child only in her eleventh year; but for ingenuity, ſolidity, and good ſenſe, a real phænomenon.

I had

I had ſpoken a few days before to baron Dewitz, concerning my departure, and he anſwered me, that the duke deſired me to ſtay till I had ſeen Mirow, the place of his and our queen's nativity: that his highneſs intended to go thither very ſhortly, and would take me with him. The opportunity now offered, for the duke had received an account from his brothers, the princes Charles and Erneſt, that they intended ſhortly to pay him a viſit, and he reſolved to go and meet them at Mirow. At the ſame time captain Pleſſe, ſenior, and the two Britiſh officers, Anſtruther and Graham, were for returning to Brunſwick, and the duke invited them to be of the party, Mirow being in their way to that city.

The duke ſet out for Mirow along with the two Britiſh captains; and I was to follow the next day, in company with captain Pleſſe. I ſpent the greater part of the forenoon, after the duke was gone, with baron Dewitz, and talked over matters relative to my departure for England. We dined at court, but the duke being abſent, and the princeſs not coming down to dinner, there was but very little company. In the afternoon, I made ſeveral viſits, among others to madam Koſboth, mademoiſelle Rauchbar, and mademoiſelle Dewitz. There I ſaw madam Pitcan, an old gentlewoman, who had been French miſtreſs to the queen, and all the ducal family.

Unfor-

Unfortunately ſhe is become blind, but in return for her long ſervices, the duke is ſo good as to give her an apartment and her table in the palace. When ſhe talks of the queen, ſhe is in raptures, ſo great an affection does ſhe retain for our amiable ſovereign. But, indeed, her majeſty's name is adored here by all ranks of people, who were conſtant witneſſes of her princely virtues. From the caſtle, I went to drink tea at captain Norman's, and ſaw madam Norman for the firſt time after her lying-in. She had been only nine days brought to bed, yet was up to receive company. Such is the difference of cuſtoms with regard to this point of decorum among the fair ſex. I have already given you an account of this lady, and her ſiſter, madam Oertz, ſo that I have nothing here to add, as nature has nothing more to beſtow, towards heightening the portrait. There was a good deal of company, we drank tea and punch, and played at cards till ſeven; then we adjourned to baron Oertz's, where we ſupped and ſpent the evening. Of madam Oertz I have already taken notice, but I never mentioned his ſiſter, miſs Oertz; ſhe is an amiable young lady, very good humoured, and has a moſt ſweet innocent countenance. In ſhort, in ſuch agreeable company I could not but ſpend the time highly to my ſatisfaction.

The

The next morning, the 29th of October, after breakfasting with baron Dewitz, he told me he had received a letter from the duke, who desired me to be at Mirow that day, by twelve o'clock. A chariot and six was ready at the door by ten, when I set off with captain Plesse. It was a clear frosty morning, so that I could have a full view of the country. From New Strelitz to Mirow is about eight or nine miles, the soil for the most part sandy. We passed through two small villages, and exactly by twelve we got to our journey's end. There happened to be a fair that day in town, which occasioned a great conflux of people. As we drove through the market place, I saw captain Anstruther and captain Graham, who told me that the duke was but a little way behind; upon which I alighted with captain Plesse, and we went and paid our respects to his highness. The duke told me he was very glad to see me at the place of his nativity, a place for which he still preserved a particular liking. I thanked his highness, and told him I thought myself happy in beholding the seat where he and our gracious queen drew their first breath. By one o'clock having sauntered a good deal, and seen every thing at the fair, we went to dinner: the same plenty and elegance appeared as at Strelitz; but not near so much ceremony, this being the duke's country-house, where formalities are laid aside. There

are no guards, nor pages, and he is attended only by his lacqueys and valet de chambre. He had a blackmoor boy with him, whom his brother, prince Charles, brought over from England, and who had belonged to Rice the broker that was hanged. The perſon who bought him at an auction, made a preſent of him to prince Charles, and the prince gave him to the duke. This boy is very arch, and does a thouſand things to divert his highneſs. The young rogue has forgot his Engliſh, and is now quite Germanized; but knows he has got into good quarters. There was a gentleman at table, called the Droſſart, or governor of Mirow, who had been in the Pruſſian ſervice, and was governor of Geldres, when that town ſurrendered, in the late war, to the French. I was told that he had been ill treated by his Pruſſian majeſty, which occaſioned his quitting that prince's ſervice. His name is Raden; he is an elderly man, of a very good aſpect, well built, and robuſt conſtitution. His lady is a little woman, gay and lively, with ſome remains of beauty. He has a daughter who is a handſome young lady, and well accompliſhed. As the duke loves the company of ladies, madam de Raden and her daughter always dine with him, when he is at Mirow.

After dinner, the duke ordered the coaches to be ready, intending to ſhew us a hunting-ſeat, not far from thence, known by the name

of

of Canow, or Albertine Luſt. We got there in about an hour and a half, and I muſt own I was pleaſed with the excurſion. It is properly a villa, or ſummer-houſe, whither the duke's father uſed to retire in the hunting ſeaſon. The houſe is charmingly ſituated on an eminence, from whence it commands an extenſive proſpect. From the top of the hill is a gentle declivity, with a handſome garden, at the end of which is a beautiful lake. The garden is kept in good order, but the houſe is a little out of repair, the duke not being fond of hunting. We made no long ſtay, but only juſt enough to take a view of the place, and drove directly back to Mirow, where we arrived a little after ſun-ſet. We drank coffee at the droſſart's houſe, from whence we adjourned to the caſtle. The evening, till ſupper-time, was ſpent at quadrille; the duke was very chearful, having received a letter from the princes his brothers, that they would be there the next day. Captain Anſtruther, and captain Graham, propoſed ſetting out that very night, at eleven o'clock, on their return to Brunſwick. It ſeems captain Pleſſe's furlough was expired. We went to ſupper at the uſual time, and were very merry till thoſe gentlemen's departure, when a ſudden cloud overcaſt the whole company. The officers took their leave of the duke in the moſt grateful manner, and his highneſs was pleaſed to expreſs the great ſatisfaction he had received

from their viſit. I ſaw them into the coach, and was ſenſibly affected at the moment of ſeparation. I lay that night in the very apartment where the duke was born, and the next morning, while I was breakfaſting with captain Pleſſe, his highneſs came in, and told us he had received tidings of the princes his brothers, that they were not far off, and he intended to go and meet them. In the mean time he deſired captain Pleſſe to ſhew me every thing that was to be ſeen, in the town and caſtle of Mirow. The duke then ſet off, and, when breakfaſt was over, the captain and I took a turn about the town.

Mirow is a very ſmall town, ſuppoſed to have derived its name from the Sclavonic, or Venedic word *mir*, ſignifying *peace*. It was once a commandery of the order of the knights of Malta, belonging to the grand maſterſhip of Sonnenburg, but was ſecularized, together with the commandery of Nemerow, at the treaty of Weſtphalia, and aſſigned to the dukes of Mecklenburg, in order to indemnify thoſe princes for their ceſſion of Wiſmar to the Swedes. The town is ſituated on the weſt ſide of a handſome lake, in a very pleaſant country. In the year 1730, it was burnt down to the ground; but providentially the caſtle and church were preſerved. Since that time the town has been rebuilt, and may be ſaid to be indebted for its preſent elegance to the late calamity. The houſes are neat,

neat, the ſtreets wide, and the whole uniform. On the right hand is an agreeable alley of lofty trees, which ſerves for a walk to the inhabitants. At the extremity of the principal ſtreet is the ducal caſtle, or palace. The front is of a noble architecture, well diſpoſed, without any crowding of ornaments. This building is not large, but commodious; and was the reſidence of the preſent duke's father, Charles Lewis Frederic, duke of Mecklenburg Mirow, a younger brother of duke Adolphus Frederic III. The apartments are neat, in very good order, and handſomely furniſhed. Round the caſtle is a moat, which communicates with the neighbouring lake; and over the moat is a bridge, leading to a pretty garden. Oppoſite the palace are the offices, all very convenient; and the kitchen, I think, is one of the handſomeſt I ever beheld. The ſtables are alſo neat and commodious. To the left is the brewhouſe, the fineſt in the whole duchy of Mecklenburg; the beer is famous over all the country, and forms a conſiderable part of the duke's revenue. There is alſo a very curious diſtillery, a branch of trade alſo belonging to the duke. At a ſmall diſtance ſtands the old palace, built by Adolphus Frederick II. the preſent duke's grandfather. In this her preſent majeſty queen Charlotte was born. It is much ſmaller than the other, and the duke is now pulling it down, in order to rebuild another on the ſame ſpot.

Not far, far from hence is the pariſh church, a neat modern ſtructure; here is the vault or burying-place of the princes of the line of Mecklenburg Strelitz.

Captain Pleſſe and I went all over the town, and left nothing unnoticed, not even the old nurſery maid, who had the care of her majeſty and the princes her brothers, during their infancy. This is good Mrs. Wildbergen, a fine old dame, who cried with joy in talking of the queen. I was very glad to ſee a perſon who had taken ſo much care of our gracious ſovereign; ſhe is ſtrong and hearty, and likely ſtill to live many years. I went afterwards to pay a viſit to M. Leithauſer, miniſter of the pariſh, with whom I had already made acquaintance at New Strelitz. This gentleman is no leſs eſteemed for his unfeigned piety and religion, than for his profound and extenſive learning. In polite literature few excel him, being an excellent claſſical ſcholar. He has publiſhed ſeveral pieces of elegant compoſition, in his native tongue, particularly an elegy on the deceaſe of the late ducheſs, the queen's mother; and an addreſs to her majeſty on her paſſage through Mirow. As we happened to talk of his ſerene highneſs, he aſſured me that no prince can pay a greater regard to learning, nor give more encouragement to merit. And this, ſaid he, is a natural conſequence of his being himſelf a very good ſcholar, and often conſecrating

crating his leiſure hours to the belles lettres. He knows what a neighbouring great prince * has obſerved, that the ſciences, ſo far from debaſing, impart a new luſtre to even the higheſt ſtation; and that the great men of antiquity were formed, in the ſchool of letters, to the public offices of the ſtate. M. Leithauſer then produced a Latin oration which the duke pronounced before the univerſity of Gripſwald, in Swediſh Pomerania, when he was choſen rector of that learned body, at the age of fifteen. I mentioned to you once before, that baron Dewitz had favoured me with a copy of this oration, and, as it is not prolix, you will not, I apprehend, be ſorry to peruſe it.

An ORATION pronounced by his ſerene Highneſs the DUKE of MECKLENBURG STRELITZ, on being choſen RECTOR of the Univerſity of Gripſwald, in 1753.

Meminiſtis, academiæ hujus prorector & profeſſores digniſſimi, quam grata mihi fuerit concilioſorum veſtrorum teſſera, qua me paucos ante dies civem academicum amice declarabatis. Accipiebam iſtam eo majori lætitia, quo certius arctiſſimum mihi cum ſcientiis artibuſque liberalibus vinculum, & cum viris doctis commercium, ita confirmari videbatur. Et eodem ani-

* The king of Pruſſia.

mo, quo tunc grates meas ordini veſtro egi, eaſdem & nunc perſolvo.

Aſt novam me obligandi vim hodie additis, quum primum in celebri collegio veſtro locum, in eoque præſidis & rectoris præeminentiam, ſponte mihi decretam, fidenter defertis; nec minus quidquid vobis cariſſimum, quidquid ſanctiſſimum, hæc rectoratus inſignia, hæc privilegiorum documenta, meis manibus, meæ tutelæ concreditis.

Sunt plurima, quæ annales majorum meorum repræſentant, amicitiæ Pomeranorum monumenta, Megalapoli meæ ſacra. Enimvero crediderim, me præ ceteris a provido numine deſignatum fuiſſe, in quo amicæ hujus vicinitatis optima extarent ſpecimina. Summa ſaltem votorum meorum eſt, ut verbis jam exprimere poſſim, quanta me lætitia omnia hæc perfundant, quantaque cupiditate incendar, vicinitatis vinculum, quod ipſa natura nectit, reddendi indiſſolubile.

En, Pomerani, certum, ſi ita videtur, affectionis meæ pignus! Me ipſum academiæ veſtræ Pomeranicæ trado, conſecro.

Conſecro me iſti, vobis viri doctiſſimi ita volentibus, & civem & rectorem. Trado me fiduciæ, quam in bona mea voluntate repoſuiſtis; quam tamen ne ultra ætatem meam, ne ultra præſentem rerum mearum conditionem extendatis, precor. Quo animo primæ inter vos dignitatis ſplendore radians panegyribus poſt hac veſtris interero, eodem & juſtum judicio & æquum, te, prorector celeberrime, nec interveniendo in optimis rerum academicarum adminiſtrationibus turbare, nec quod in manibus tuis optime collocatum eſt, iiſdem extrahere.

extrahere. Retrado igitur gratus tibi insignia ista, quorum auctoritate & robore suffultus regimine academico sapienter fungeris. Quod mihi reliquum manet & honorificum, opto, ut quam sapissime bono academiæ inserviendi ansam mihi præbeat.

Nec absentiam meam in posterum bonam vestræ, viri clarissimi, fiduciæ memoriam exstinguere patiar. Nec desinam absens, eruditis Grypeswaldensium laboribus attentum oculum intendere & animum. Neque vestræ, studiosi amici, probatæ mihi observantiæ, probatæ omnibus & diligentiæ & morum elegantiæ oblivisear.

Sit celebris hæc academia summo numini commendatissima, ut, moderante salutem ejus rege sapientissimo, augustissimo, promovente vicario ejus & cancellario providissimo, ad majorem indies & fortunæ & gloriæ gradum adscendat; et sic ætatem floreatis meæ delicia, professores & cives.

From the subject of literature, a sudden transition was made to that of the mortality of the horned cattle; and Mr. Leithauser observed, that though the distemper had done so much mischief in most parts of the country, the cattle on the duke's demesnes had not suffered much. This he imputed to the precaution his highness had used, in ordering all his stewards to bury the carcases, together with the hides: a regulation which the avarice of others would not permit them to comply with. A gentleman present mentioned a very simple reme-

dy againſt this diſtemper, and he aſſured us that it had ſuch effect in the diſtrict of Calbe, that not a ſingle beaſt died of the diſtemper. I thought it worth while to write it down, and ſend it to you. "Whenever a beaſt is obſerved to loath its food, and not to eat as uſual, a ſtring, with bunches of freſh plucked onions tied to it, muſt be put round its neck. Theſe onions attract the venom out of the ſick animal, ſo that the very next day they look as if they had been parboiled. They muſt be daily replaced with freſh onions, and thoſe taken from the diſeaſed cattle ſhould be carefully put under ground, being certain death to any fowls that ſhould happen to meddle with them. After ſome days, the beaſt will void a great deal of ſlime from its mouth and noſtrils, and others have a violent looſeneſs: they likewiſe are generally taken with a ſtiffneſs, and ſwelling in the legs; all which, however, by continuing the abovementioned uſe of the onion necklace, gradually abate, till the beaſt perfectly recovers. It would likewiſe be proper to hang bunches of onions up and down the cow-houſe."

It was now near dinner-time, when we were apprized that the duke, and the princes his brothers, were arrived. Upon which the captain and I returned to the palace, where I was immediately introduced to their ſerene highneſſes, and met with a moſt gracious reception. Soon after this ceremony was over, the duke

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made his appearance, and we ſat down to dinner: his highneſs then declared his reſolution of going back, that ſame afternoon, to New Strelitz, on account of his brothers, who were impatient to ſee the princeſs their ſiſter. The duke and the two princes were very chearful the whole time of dinner, and aſked me a thouſand queſtions, which I anſwered to the beſt of my abilities. Soon after dinner, the carriages were ordered, and the two princes went in the ſame coach with the duke their brother, and captain Pleſſe and I returned in a chariot. We got to Strelitz about ſeven o'clock, and found the court all overjoyed upon the arrival of the duke and his two brothers.

Indeed the preſence of theſe two young princes has infuſed, as it were, new life, into this part of the world. There are balls and aſſemblies almoſt every night, and the nobility flock from all the neighbouring parts to pay their reſpects to their highneſſes. They have both been in England, but whether you have had the pleaſure of ſeeing them, I do not remember. Be that as it may, I will endeavour to draw the outlines of their character.

Prince Charles was born in 1741; he is of a middling ſtature, round faced, wears his own hair, has a lively aſpect, black eyes, and his complexion brown. He is perfectly well ſhaped, with a noble air, and robuſt conſtitution. His imagination is lively, his conception quick, joined to

ſolidity

ſolidity of judgment. Beſides his own language, of which he is a perfect maſter, he ſpeaks French with correctneſs and eaſe, and is a pretty good proficient in the Engliſh tongue. A good part of his time he applies to manly exerciſes, and to the ſtudy of the military art. He is reſpected for his virtue and for his candour, and for that noble freedom by which all his words and actions are diſtinguiſhed. In his religion he is ſo well grounded and ſincere, that I have been told he has declined paying his addreſſes to a certain princeſs, alledging for his only reaſon, that ſhe was tainted with the principles of libertiniſm. From his good conſtitution, he is looked upon as the beſt qualified of all the princely brothers to continue this branch of the ſerene family.

Prince Erneſt was born in 1742. He is middle ſized, has an oval face, wears his own hair, is of a delicate form, with large black eyes, and a brown complexion; in ſhort, his features are ſo regular, and his whole countenance ſo engaging, that he may be looked upon as a very handſome man. His temper is as engaging as his phiſiognomy; and he has an aſpect of goodneſs, which wins the hearts of all who have the honour to approach him. His judgment ſurpaſſes his years, and his mind is improved with every valuable accompliſhment. He ſpeaks French and Italian perfectly, and loves to expreſs himſelf in the latter. He underſtands Engliſh very well, and would ſpeak it better, as he ſays himſelf,

ſelf, had he a little more practice. But his conſtitution is very infirm, and it has been apprehended lately that he was going into a conſumption: on that account, he has been reſtrained by his phyſicians from dancing, an exerciſe, of which he is ſupremely fond. Still he is always lively and in good ſpirits, ſo that it is to be hoped he will overcome this diſorder, which has ſo greatly alarmed the ſerene family.

Prince George, the duke's younger brother, I have not, as yet, had the honour of ſeeing; he was born in 1748, and is now upon his travels in Italy, under the conduct of baron Dewitz's brother. To judge from ſeveral of his letters to baron Dewitz, he appears to be a prince of a promiſing genius. His remarks on commerce and agriculture are exceeding fine, and would do honour to the ableſt ſtateſman.

I have the pleaſure of converſing with theſe amiable princes every day, and cannot but admire their good ſenſe, ſweetneſs of temper, and engaging condeſcenſion. Prince Charles, in particular, being very fond of the hiſtory of his family, aſks me ſeveral queſtions about my Vandalia, a copy of which he had ſent to princeſs Ulrica, at Schwerin. Some time ago, he engaged M. Buckholtz to write an epic poem, on one of his illuſtrious anceſtors, Pribiſlaus II. the laſt king of the Venedi and Obobrites. Sometimes I play at cards with him, and ſometimes we enter into literary topics,

pics, and I am always charmed with the pleaſure of his converſation.

Tired of the amuſements of the court (for every thing tires at laſt) I ſometimes betake myſelf to my two philoſophical friends, the ſuperintendant, and counſellor Reinhard, and never leave them without acknowledging myſelf much indebted to their inſtruction. They have been extremely communicative the whole time I have been here, always expreſſing themſelves glad to ſee me, and procuring me every literary intelligence. Thus the object of my coming to Mecklenburg is prety well anſwered; I am greatly improved in my health, have been enabled to rectify ſome errors in the firſt part of my hiſtory, and to finiſh the ſecond, by the help of new materials. The weather has continued amazingly fine, but I cannot expect this will laſt long; winter is approaching; and I have a long journey to make through the worſt part of Germany: for I do not chuſe to go back, at this dangerous ſeaſon, by ſea; beſides, I have ſome intention of paying my reſpects, in my way home, to the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin. At all events, I ſhould be glad to reach Holland before the ſnows begin to fall, which would render my journey very hazardous, if not impracticable. All theſe conſiderations I have laid before baron Dewitz, who is ſo well convinced of the reaſonableneſs of my apprehenſions, that he

has

has ſpoke to the duke; and, with his highneſs's conſent, I am to leave this agreeable court, to-morrow morning. And yet I confeſs I ſhould like to ſtay here all the winter; but that cannot be: I muſt return this year, if poſſible, to England. If ever I quitted a place with regret, it will be this, where I have formed ſo many agreeable connexions, and where I have received ſuch civilities, and even ſuch honours, from all ranks. Indeed their civilities have been ſo great, that I want words to expreſs them, but I ſhall ever retain them in idea, and death alone ſhall efface them out of my memory.

I have ſpent this whole afternoon in making viſits and taking my leave of the gentlemen and ladies, with whom I have the honour of being acquainted. As ſoon as it was duſk, I went to court, and waited on princeſs Chriſtiana, to pay my laſt reſpects to her highneſs. I was introduced to her apartment by mademoiſelle Zeltzer; and met with a moſt gracious reception. Her highneſs talked with me a good while concerning my journey, congratulated me upon the recovery of my health in Mecklenburg, invited me to pay them another viſit; and heartily wiſhed me a proſperous and ſafe return to England. I then went and played at cards with the ladies, and ſaw baron Dewitz, who was come to ſpeak with the duke. When he had done with his highneſs, he called me aſide; and put a purſe of louiſdores into my hand, telling

ling me it was the duke's pleaſure I ſhould accept of that preſent, as a mark of his approbation of my conduct, and to defray my expences to England. At the ſame time he deſired me to ſend him my landlord's bill, for that I had nothing at all to pay during my ſtay at Strelitz. Farther, he told me, that the duke would ſend a ſervant and a chaiſe to conduct me as far as Schwerin, for which alſo I ſhould be at no expence. I was confounded at ſo much generoſity, which I had no reaſon or title to expect, and could hardly expreſs my acknowledgments. The baron deſired me to breakfaſt with him in the morning, and that the carriage ſhould be ready at what time I pleaſed. This ſaid, he went home, and I ſtaid to ſupper at court. I talked a good deal with prince Charles, who, hearing I intended to return by the way of Hanover, promiſed to give me two letters of recommendation, one for baron Munchauſen, and the other for general Sporcken, both at Hanover; he added, that he would breakfaſt with me at baron Dewitz's. Supper being over, we chatted a little, as uſual, when the ladies came about me, and preſſed me to ſtay a few days longer: but every thing was now ſettled, and the duke being retired into the preſence-chamber, accompanied by his two brothers, I went in to take leave of their ſerene highneſſes. I made my obeiſance in the beſt manner, returned my moſt ſincere

thanks to his ſerene highneſs, for all his favours, and recommended myſelf to his patronage and protection. The duke anſwered me in the moſt gracious manner, that he had done nothing but what I deſerved, that he ſhould be always glad to hear of my welfare, wiſhed me a ſafe and proſperous journey, and hoped to have the pleaſure of ſeeing me again at Strelitz. After this I made my bow and retired, when the ladies came about me again, hoping ſtill I intended to put off my journey. But I told them I had taken leave of his highneſs, and that nothing more remained but to bid adieu to them. This I did with great concern, and after mutual wiſhes of happineſs, I came home to my lodging.

Here I am at preſent, in the dead ſilence of the night, when the buſy tumult of the world is huſhed, retired from court, and from all ſcenes of grandeur. *J'ai fait un beau ſonge*, as marſhal Saxe ſaid, when he was a-dying. Indeed, my dear friend, life is nothing but a dream; its ſplendid ſhows are an empty viſion, *fumus et umbra*. You will hear no more of me from Strelitz; my next ſtage will be at Schwerin, where I have the ſatisfaction of being ſtrongly recommended, by baron Dewitz, to two of the principal noblemen at that court, the barons de Lutzow and de Zulow, the former privy counſel, and the latter great cup-bearer to the duke. I have heard of a book, intitled

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The art of making one's ſelf happy in dreams; but were I to be poſſeſſed of that art, I could not flatter myſelf with any dream more pleaſant than that which has amuſed my fancy at Strelitz. Adieu, my dear friend, I am almoſt dreaming over my paper, and but juſt enough awake to deſire the continuance of your friendſhip, which will ever be moſt faithfully returned by,

Dear Sir, yours, &c.

LETTER XVIII.

Schwerin, November 13, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

SINCE my departure from Strelitz, I have been for ſome time in a melancholy mood, a fatality attending poor mortals after exquiſite enjoyment. But I aſſure you it is not the diverſions of the court of Strelitz that I regret, for the ſameneſs of theſe grows tireſome in time; but it is the friendſhips contracted in that happy ſpot, which rendered my ſtay ſo very agreeable, and the ſeparation ſo painful. I ſhall now give you an account of my laſt ſcene with baron Dewitz, and of my journey from Strelitz to Schwerin.

I roſe early the 7th in the morning, and having got my baggage ready, deſired my landlord, M. Strubing, to make out my bill, and ſend it, according to order, to baron Dewitz. Between eight and nine, I waited on the baron, and ſoon after had the pleaſure of

ſeeing prince Charles. His highneſs came to breakfaſt with us, and brought me the letters of recommendation he had promiſed me the day before. Madam de Dewitz was not very well, yet made her appearance. After breakfaſt, the prince wiſhed me a good journey; I thanked his highneſs, and recommended myſelf to the continuance of his good graces. I ſtaid half an hour longer, during which a great deal of affecting diſcourſe paſſed between the baron and myſelf. I then took my leave of him and his good lady, not without tears, thinking it would, in all probability, be the laſt time I ſhould have the pleaſure of ſeeing ſo happy, ſo worthy, and ſo amiable a couple. The chaiſe was at the door, and I parted with the baron, about half an hour after ten. I ſtopped at the ſuperintendant's houſe, and once more took my leave of him and his good family, when he delivered me a drawing of the palace of Strelitz, which he had undertaken at the duke's deſire. I was very glad he had finiſhed it, and ſhall have the pleaſure of ſhewing it you, when I return to London. M. Maſch is an univerſal genius; a divine, a philoſopher, &c. and likewiſe an excellent draughtſman. After a thouſand thanks and embraces, I tore myſelf away, and bid adieu to Strelitz, exactly at eleven in the forenoon.

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The weather was cold and pinching, being a bleak northerly wind, but very fine over head. The road at firſt was ſandy for about two miles, till I paſſed by the village of Torwitz, leaving Mirow on the left. By four o'clock, I arrived at the town of Wahren, belonging to the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin. The diſtance from Strelitz to Wahren is about twenty miles. On the way I met a gentleman with his ſervant, on horſeback, and though they rode a pretty good pace, they had their pipes all the while in their mouths. I lighted at the poſt-houſe, and gave orders for my dinner, and while it was getting ready, took a walk in order to view the place.

Wahren is a ſmall town, pleaſantly ſituated on a beautiful lake. It is ſuppoſed to have taken its name from the ancient Varni, or Warini, who, according to ſome writers, were ſettled on the banks of the river Varna, near the lakes of Muritz and Calpen. At what time this town was firſt built, is not known, but it is a place of conſiderable antiquity. In the year 1671, it was burnt down to the ground, and has not recovered its ancient proſperity. Finding nothing remarkable, I returned to the poſt-houſe, and dined. Upon conſulting with the poſtilion, I concluded it would be adviſable to travel farther that evening; and therefore ſet out ſoon after dinner: paſſing through a pleaſant country, I ſaw a

great number of large ſtones, near the road, ſuch as I had obſerved in ſeveral other parts of the duchy of Mecklenburg, and by the common people are ſuppoſed to be the remains of the altars, on which the ancient Venedi performed their religious rites. But from the ſepulchral urns frequently found in the neighbourhood of theſe piles, it is more probable that they were places of interment for perſons of diſtinction. The night now began to ſpread her gloomy veil, when I reached a ſolitary inn, called Water Krow, and finding it uncomfortable to travel in the dark, I reſolved to go no farther till next morning. The inn was crowded with people, going to a fair, which was to be held the day following, at a town called Grubenhagen. I took notice of their eating gooſe greaſe, by way of butter, and they all commended it as excellent. I ſupped upon fiſh, which was pretty good, and retired to my room. Before I went away, the company extended themſelves on ſtraw, in one room, and ſome of them with pipes in their mouths. This is great careleſſneſs, and ſhould not be ſuffered; nor do I wonder that fires happen ſo often in this country.

The next morning I was up pretty early, and after an expeditious breakfaſt, reſumed my journey. The weather was pleaſant, and not ſo cold as the preceding day. After paſſing by ſeveral

villages I came through a wood ten miles long, and arrived by noon at Dobbertin, twenty miles from Wahren. The poſtilion carried me to a pretty good inn, where I beſpoke dinner, and then went to ſee the famous convent of Lutheran ladies. The village of Dobbertin is ſituated near a pleaſant lake, and contains ſome good houſes. The convent ſtands upon the lake, and makes a noble appearance. One part of it conſiſts of old buildings, another is a modern ſtructure. The ſteward of the convent has the whimſical title of captain, with a very handſome houſe, and a genteel ſalary. I had a letter to him from Strelitz, in conſequence of which, he behaved to me with great civility. He went with me all over the convent, and ſhewed me ſeveral of the ladies apartments, which were neatly furniſhed. They are thirty-two in number, all dreſſed in a lay habit, and, as I mentioned to you before, they make no ſort of religious vow. In ſhort, theſe convents are only places of education and retirement for the daughters of the nobility. I ſaw no young ladies among them; which made good what prince Charles had mentioned to me at Strelitz, when I aſked his highneſs whether there were any antiquities to be ſeen at Dobbertin? None, ſaid he, except the old ladies. The captain wanted me to ſtay and dine with him, but I was in a hurry, and thanked him for his hoſpitality. At my return to the inn, I had reaſon to be pleaſed with

my entertainment; the people were civil and obliging, and I do not remember to have met with ſo good an inn in any village in Mecklenburg. By three o'clock, I got into the chaiſe again, and bid the poſtilion make all poſſible haſte to reach the next ſtation, which was the village of Wankow. The country is interſperſed all the way, with a number of fine lakes, inſomuch that there appeared to me almoſt as much water as land. I ſaw numerous flocks of ſheep, and all in very good plight. A little after dark I reached Wankow, ten miles from Dobbertin. The village is inſignificant, conſiſting only of a few ſtraggling cottages, but the poſtilion told me there was a very good houſe of entertainment. As it was quite dark, I reſolved to go no farther that night; but when I came to order ſupper, I found the poſtilion was miſtaken. They had nothing but ſalt pork to eat, and no other liquor than very bad beer and brandy. The good people, however, were very civil, and did every thing in their power to oblige me. I comforted myſelf with beer ſoup, a favourite meſs in the little inns throughout this country; and having nobody to converſe with, I went to bed betimes.

The next morning I roſe before day, and after my uſual regale of coffee, I ſet out from Wankow. The road at firſt was very pleaſant, through a fruitful plain; but afterwards a great part of

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it was heath, which made not ſo good an appearance. At a ſmall diſtance, on the left, ſtands the town of Criwitz. The weather was cold and unpleaſant, and ſomewhat hazy. From thence I came to a wood, where I croſſed a rivulet, and then moved on very ſlowly, up hill and down hill all the way, till ten o'clock brought me to the village of Pinnow, ten miles from Wankow. The view from thoſe hills is romantic, but the weather was ſo cold and unpleaſant, that I had no great ſtomach for proſpects. I ſtopped at Pinnow to refreſh the horſes, and drink a diſh of coffee. I had now only eight miles farther to Schwerin; but the greater part of the road is through a rugged country. After I had croſſed a pleaſant valley, I reached the laſt eminence, from whence I had a full view of the city of Schwerin, and the neighbouring lake. The remainder of the journey was pleaſant; the ſun peeped out, and cheared my ſpirits: I ſoon paſſed a bridge on a moraſs, where I paid toll, and by one o'clock, on Sunday the ninth inſtant, I arrived ſafe at Schwerin. Here I ſet up at an inn, called Martineſe's hof, from the name of the landlord, Martineſe, and was glad of a little reſt after ſo fatiguing a journey.

The firſt thing I did, was to ſend back the ſervant to Strelitz, with the chaiſe and horſes; at the ſame time, I wrote a letter

of thanks to baron Dewitz. The people of this inn are extremely obliging; the landlady, in particular, is a well-bred woman. After I had dined, I inquired into the ſtate of the court, and they told me that the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin lives altogether at his villa, called Ludewigſluſt; that their ſerene highneſſes, prince Lewis, and his conſort, princeſs Charlotte, with princeſs Ulrica, the duke's ſiſter, reſided in the caſtle of Schwerin, and were now gone upon a viſit to the duke, but would be back in two or three days. I reſolved then to wait for their return, and in the mean time to amuſe myſelf, as well as I could, in Schwerin.

The next morning, I waited on the marſhal of the court, baron Lutzow, and delivered to him a letter from baron Dewitz. I told him I had alſo two more letters from the ſame gentleman, one to his couſin, baron Lutzow, the privy counſellor, and the other to baron Zulow, great cup-bearer, beſides another from prince Charles of Mecklenburg Strelitz to princeſs Ulrica. The marſhal is an old gentleman, rather low in ſtature, and much pitted with the ſmall-pox: he received me very politely, and deſiring me to give him my letters, ſaid he would forward them in two or three hours, to Ludewigſluſt. It ſeems one of the duke's coaches was to ſet off about that time, with

with the count of Holſtein, a young Daniſh nobleman, who was come to Schwerin, with a commiſſion from the king and queen of Denmark. This commiſſion was only a return of compliment to the duke, for having ſent a nobleman to Altena, to congratulate their majeſties on their happy nuptials. I thanked the marſhal, who aſſured me, that he would endeavour to ſhew me, during my ſtay in Schwerin, all the civility in his power. At the ſame time he invited me to dine at court, and ſaid that I was come in good time to ſee a famous ſhow, known by the name of Martinſman; that this ſhow would be exhibited in the court-yard of the duke's palace, where I ſhould have a full view of it. This was agreeable to me to hear, and I told him I ſhould do myſelf the honour of being there at the time appointed. In my return to my lodging, I met with a number of black-guard boys, their faces all beſmeared with ſoot, and making much ſuch another figure, and playing the ſame antic tricks, as our London chimney ſweepers boys on May-day.

A little before one, I went to court, where I was moſt courteouſly received by the marſhal, and introduced to the company. They all behaved to me with the greateſt politeneſs, and welcomed me to Schwerin. There were about ſixteen gentlemen, but not one lady. The moſt diſtinguiſhed, were

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the marſhal of the court, and the count de Flohr, ſecretary to princeſs Ulrica, baron Drieberg, ſteward of the houſhold to the ducheſs, and colonel Gluer, governor of Roſtock. There were two ſtrangers beſides myſelf, the count of Holſtein, who was going to Ludewigſluſt; and captain Reſtorf, a Mecklenburg young nobleman in the duke of Brunſwick's ſervice; and whom I had often ſeen and converſed with in London. I was overjoyed to ſee the captain again, and he ſeemed to be no leſs pleaſed than ſurprized to meet with me at the court of Schwerin. The count of Holſtein is a young nobleman of a middling ſtature, agreeable features, and genteel figure. He ſpeaks good French, is free and eaſy in his deportment, and of a chearful diſpoſition. Baron Drieberg is a fine old nobleman, of a very good ſize, handſome countenance, and fair complexion. He ſeems to be turned of ſeventy, yet is chearful and merry, and ſpeaks pretty good Engliſh, which he learned many years ago in London. About one, dinner was brought in, a page ſaid grace, and we all ſat down without much ceremony. The apartment where we dined, is large and commodious, commanding a fine view of the garden, with the lake of Schwerin, a long ſweep of meadows and fields, and a ſtately foreſt. The dinner was a ſoup, three courſes, and a deſert, and every thing ſeemed to

be conducted much in the ſame manner as at Strelitz. After dinner we roſe and drank coffee, and were in high chat, when a ſervant came to inform us, that the ſhow of Martinſman was going to begin: upon which, we adjourned to princeſs Ulrica's apartment, from whence we could have a full view of the ceremony.

The court-yard was filled with an immenſe croud, among whom, were numbers of the black guards, I had ſeen in the morning, full of geſticulations, and clamorouſly demanding money for Martinſman. We had not gazed long, when a vehicle, reſembling a poſt-waggon, drove into the court; in which vehicle, were ſeated a deputy of the magiſtrates of the city of Lubeck, ſeveral ſubaltern officers, dreſſed in red, a public notary, and two witneſſes. They brought with them a hogſhead of Rheniſh wine, which the ſenate of Lubeck ſend every year, as a preſent to the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin. They drove pretty faſt round the court, throwing money among the mob, who fought and ſcrambled for it like devils. Preſently an officer belonging to the duke, made his appearance, and was addreſſed by them in the following words: "The ſenate and citizens of Lubeck have ſent this caſk of wine to his ſerene highneſs, as a teſtimony of friendſhip and good neighbourhood." The duke's officer made anſwer; "We accept it not on account

count of friendſhip and good neighbourhood, but as a juſt debt and matter of obligation." Upon which, the deputy ordered the notary to take down his proteſt in writing, and the witneſſes to atteſt it. The ſame caution was uſed on the ſide of the duke's officer, who entered a proteſt againſt his proteſt, with vehemence and warmth: then the deputy and his attendants were led into an apartment in the caſtle, and entertained with a good dinner. But what is very droll in this ceremony, the carriage is carefully examined before it drives into the court; and if there ſhould happen to be a defect in the wheels, or any other part, the whole is forefeited to the duke. The deputy and his people ſtay all night, but are obliged to depart the next day before noon The origin of this ludicrous ceremony is variouſly repreſented; but the moſt probable opinion derives it from the gratitude of the city of Lubeck to Henry I. count of Schwerin; who, by his intrepidity in ſeizing the perſon of Waldemar II. king of Denmark, reſtored the Hanſe towns of Lubeck and Hamburg, with all this maritime part of Germany, to their ancient liberty; a liberty afterwards finally eſtabliſhed, by the glorious victory of Bornhovede, in which the Danes were totally defeated. The city of Lubeck, in particular, having reaped ſo great a benefit from the heroic valour of that renowned prince,

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which was ſo ſignally diſplayed on that important and ever memorable day, voluntarily offered this annual token of acknowlegement to him and his ſucceſſors. The princes of Schwerin being afterwards extinct, and this county devolving to the dukes of Mecklenburg, the ſame annual acknowledgement has been continued to the preſent ſerene family.

As ſoon as the ſhow was over, the company ſeparated, and I took a walk in the garden, along with captain Reſtorf. After we had amuſed ourſelves with remarks on the whimſical ceremony of Martinſman; we parted, and I went to pay a viſit to Mr. Zurneddin, ſecretary of the regency, to whom I had a letter of recommendation from my friend, profeſſor Æpinus, at Roſtock. Mr. Zurneddin is a very handſome man, ſomewhat corpulent, and of a middling ſtature. He does not ſeem to be above forty; yet his great abilities as a lawyer, have raiſed him to a moſt reſpectable employment in the ſtate. He is alſo a good hiſtorian, and well verſed in polite literature. The civility with which he received me, is paſt expreſſing; and I could not refuſe to ſpend the evening with him. There was another gentleman in company, Mr. Faul, counſellor of the court of chancery. We had an elegant ſupper, and ſome of the beſt mutton I ever taſted. His wines were alſo very good, and in ſhort, the whole entertainment was extremely genteel.

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The converſation was chiefly on matters of literature, and eſpecially on the hiſtory of Mecklenburg, with which the ſecretary is perfectly acquainted. He has written an elaborate treatiſe, entitled, An hiſtorical and diplomatical Enquiry into the Municipal Rights of the City of Roſtock, which he intends ſhortly to publiſh.

The two following days, I ſpent chiefly in viewing the town. Every morning, about ten o'clock, the court-marſhal ſends the harbinger to me, to invite me to dinner: prince Lewis and princeſs Ulrica being abſent, there is no regular table at night; ſo that I ſpend the evenings in private companies. This afternoon I had notice given me, that their ſerene highneſſes were returned from Ludewigſluſt, and would be glad to ſee me: upon which I waited on prince Lewis, and was introduced by his gentleman with little or no ceremony. The prince received me in the moſt gracious manner imaginable, expreſſed how glad he was to ſee me, and ſorry that he had been abſent at my arrival. It is impoſſible for a prince to behave with more freedom and eaſe, or with greater affability. He then introduced me to princeſs Charlotte his conſort, and princeſs Ulriba, his ſiſter. They told me I was welcome to Schwerin, and hoped that during my ſtay I ſhould find ſome amuſement. Princeſs Ulrica, who

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ſpeaks a little Engliſh, paid me the compliment to ſay ſhe was overjoyed at ſeeing the writer of a hiſtory (meaning Vandalia) which had afforded her ſo much pleaſure. In ſhort, their behaviour was ſo complaiſant, and I may ſay ſo flattering to me, that I was almoſt confounded. This ſame princeſs, by way of exerciſe, had begun to render ſome parts of my Vandalia into German, and I fancy that if ſhe were ſufficient miſtreſs of the language, ſhe would tranſlate the whole. I ſpent the evening in chit-chat, with their highneſſes; for there is no public card-playing at this court, and about nine we went to ſupper. Prince Lewis and princeſs Charlotte ſat in the middle, and princeſs Ulrica over againſt them. Her highneſs deſired me to be ſeated next to her, that ſhe might have the opportunity of converſing with me in Engliſh. She ſpeaks but indifferently as yet; her accent, however, is good, though ſhe has only a German teacher; and her perſeverance is ſuch that I really think ſhe will make herſelf miſtreſs of the language. Towards the cloſe of the evening, the marſhal of the court acquainted me with his having received a letter from baron Zulow, the great cup-bearer, intimating, that the duke would be glad to ſee me at Ludewigluſt, and that a coach would be ready to carry me thither the next day. I then took my leave of their ſerene highneſſes, who told

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me they expected I would make ſome ſtay at Schwerin, upon my return from Ludewigſluſt. I acquainted them it was my intention, and retired to my lodging.

This morning I roſe very early, thinking the coach would ſet off ſoon after breakfaſt; but finding it does not depart till one, becauſe the Duke's chaplain, who is to go with me, cannot be ready till that time, I ſhall amuſe myſelf with giving you an account of the city and court of Schwerin.

Schwerin is the capital of the dominions of Mecklenburg Schwerin, and the uſual reſidence of the dukes of that line. Some apprehend it to be the Marione of Ptolemy; but there is no proof of ſuch antiquity; on the contrary, it appears from Helmoldus, that Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony and Bavaria, anceſtor of king George III. founded this city, in the 12th century. The ſame prince gave it the arms it ſtill bears, viz. a knight in armour, mounted, holding in his right hand a banner, and in his left a ſhield, on which is painted a lion, with this inſcription: *Dux Henricus eſt ſigillum civitatis Suerinenſis.* It ſoon became a conſiderable town, and was long ago celebrated by T. Langen, canon of Eimbeck and Goſlar, in the following monkiſh rhimes.

Urbes

Urbes muratæ, per Saxoniam nominatæ,
In quèis burgenſes famoſi ſuntque potentes,
Havelburgenſes, Raceburgenſes, Suerinenſes,
Magnipolis, Rippin, Gryphefwald, pulchraque Stettin,
Staden, Sund, Wiſmar, Slevic, Roſtock, ſimul et Bard,
Hi modicum mæſti ſe conſervant & honeſti.
Sunt mercatores, quibus attribuuntur honores,
Sunt pannicidæ, plebi ſuper omnia fide,
Hoſtibus infeſti ſunt hi quandoque molęſti,
Unanimes cuncti ſunt pervigiles ita juncti;
His deus hoc præſtat, quod eis ſapientia reſtat.

The name is ſuppoſed to have been derived from the great plenty of game in the neighbourhood; Schwerin, in the Venedic language, ſignifying a deer-park. Few cities in Europe are more delightfully ſituated; it ſtands upon a beautiful lake, whoſe banks riſing in a gentle acclivity, attract the eye, being diverſified with pleaſant gardens, plentiful fields, ſhady groves, delightful woods, and paſture-land. The lake abounds with variety of fiſh, the woods with game, and the meadows with cattle. The town is almoſt ſquare, and divided into four parts, viz. Schwerin, the New Town, the Iſland or the Schelf, and the Moor, which are nearly encompaſſed by the lake. The old town is indifferently built, but the other parts, and eſpecially the Schelf, are adorned with handſome

houſes. That of count Baſſewitz makes the beſt appearance, but there are ſeveral others of very good figure. Among the public ſtructures, many deſerve a traveller's notice. The cathedral is a fine gothic pile, greatly admired, being more airy and lightſome than the generality of ſuch ſtructures: in ſhort, for its lofty ſpire, and the many internal decorations, it is not inferior to the famous church of St. Mary's, at Lubeck. Before the choir, is a crucifix with the following lines:

Effigiem Chriſti dum tranſis ſemper honora,
Non quidem effigiem, ſed quem deſignat adora.

This church was built in 1170, by the above-mentioned duke Henry the Lion, who founded the ſee of Schwerin. But this ſee was ſecularized, by the treaty of Weſtphalia, in favour of the dukes of Mecklenburg. The ſame Henry the Lion had undertaken to fortify this town, in 1161, and appointed one of his officers, named Gunzelin, to the government thereof, with the title of count, to be held by him and his heirs, in fee of the duke of Saxony; but his poſterity failing in 1360, it reverted to the houſe of Mecklenburg. Henry the Lion alſo favoured it with a charter, containing very great privileges, inſomuch that the freedom of Schwerin was held nearly in as high eſteem as that of Lubeck. You may remember I have

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publiſhed the laws of Schwerin in an appendix to the firſt volume of Vandalia. In the part called the Schelf, is a new church, the foundation of which was laid, in 1708, by duke Frederick William, with coins, or medals, underneath, containing this inſcription on the face: *Fred. Wilhelm. D. G. Dux Megapolit. Princ.* and on the reverſe, 1708, *die* 15 *Maii hoc templum priori majus Ser. Meg. Dux reg. Freder. Wilhelm. duraturo in ævum hoc lapide & metallo æternum duraturæ pietatis teſtimonio inaugurabat.* It is a tetragon, of elegant architecture, but plain and neat, without any crowding of ornaments. Here is a vault, or burying-place, for the ducal family, of the line of Schwerin. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is admired for the beauty of its ſituation. In the ſuburbs is a foundery for caſting bells and cannon, which was formerly the chapel of St. George. There is alſo a public granary, which, before the Reformation, had been a Franciſcan convent. The communication between this city, and the famous ports of Hamburgh and Lubeck, occaſions a briſk trade in wine and foreign commodities, but the balance is intirely againſt the inhabitants of Schwerin.

The ducal palace is moſt delightfully ſituated, in the neighbourhood of Schwerin, on an iſland formed by the lake, and communicating with the town by means of a draw-bridge. It is fortified after the ancient manner; but the

works are of little uſe, and indeed gone to decay. The ſtructure is ſpacious and lofty, and of a circular form, but not regular, having been erected at different times. On the left hand, as you enter the court, is a handſome chapel, and farther on is the office of the archives. The duke's apartments are alſo on this ſide, and on the firſt floor; but the aſcent to them, by a high flight of ſteps, is inconvenient. Joining to theſe, are princeſs Ulrica's apartments, which front the gate; and the reſt of that floor, on the right hand, belongs to Prince Lewis and his family. The ducheſs has a delightful apartment on the ſecond ſtory, over the duke's; but the remainder of that ſtory, and the greater part of the ground floor, are for the ſeveral officers and ſervants of the houſhold. The duke's apartment conſiſts of a ſuite of rooms, moſt elegantly furniſhed. They have all an enchanting proſpect of the lake of Schwerin, the town, and the adjacent country. The ſaloon, where their highneſſes dine, is large and commodious, but not exactly regular. The concert-room is almoſt ſquare, and decorated with a handſome cieling, and elegant carvings. Moſt of the rooms are embelliſhed with paintings, and ſome by excellent maſters. The portrait of Peter the Great is much admired, being, perhaps, the beſt reſemblance of that prince; the marſhal of the court aſſured me it was impoſſible to draw a better likeneſs; that he had known the Czar Peter

Peter extremely well, for this prince had lain at his houſe after the famous battle of Gadebuſch. There is a great variety of portraits of the princes and princeſſes of the ſerene family, in the other rooms; and, as they pretend, four of Raphael's cartoons. The audience-chamber is exceeding beautiful, and furniſhed in the higheſt taſte. The duke's gallery, conſiſting of ſeven rooms of large dimenſions, is well ſtocked with the moſt exquiſite paintings, by the principal maſters, and with all ſorts of natural and artificial rarities. I have gone through the whole three or four times, and can aſſure you, that there are few princes in Germany who have a finer muſeum. To enumerate the particulars would exceed the bounds of a letter, and indeed I have not had time as yet to make a liſt. I wiſh his highneſs would order a catalogue to be printed; it would be the means of diſcloſing a treaſure, which now lies buried as it were in a corner of Germany. What ſtruck me particularly, is a very large collection of Venedic antiquities, that have been diſcovered, within a century, in the duchy of Mecklenburg. This collection was begun by a late phyſician, Dr. Mithoff, who bequeathed it to the duke, on condition his ſon ſhould be appointed ſecretary of the muſeum. The condition was granted; his ſon, M. Mithoff is ſecretary, and takes great pleaſure in his office. He is a man of a conſiderable fortune, and now

building a houſe, which will be one of the beſt in Schwerin. This fortune, however, was left him by a relation; for I believe he has little or no ſalary from the duke: being apprized that I had written the hiſtory of his country, he took a pleaſure in ſhewing me all the curioſities relative to the ancient Venedi. There are inſtruments and tools of all ſorts, laid in proper order; but, what is very extraordinary, none are made of iron, but all of a kind of mixed metal, which they here call tombach, and is very like braſs; even their knives, ſwords, hammers, &c. are all of this metal; but ſome of their ſacrificing knives, and razors, are flint. Here are alſo a number of gold rings, which were found in urns dug up in the mountainous part of the country, and ſuppoſed to have contained the remains of ſome of the ancient Venedic kings. The whole collection is well worth the curioſity of an antiquarian.

Adjoining to the gate of the palace, is the guard-room; and in going towards the town, you paſs over a draw-bridge, from whence you proceed to the parade, which is extremely pleaſant and open, with a fine avenue of trees, contiguous to the parade; on the left hand are the duke's coach-houſe and ſtables, which are large and convenient; but the beſt horſes are now at his highneſs's ſtables in Ludewigs-Luſt. On the back ſide of the palace are the duke's gardens,

gardens, to which you alſo paſs by a draw-bridge. They were laid out in a moſt elegant taſte, by one Leger a Frenchman, in the reign of the late duke Chriſtian Lewis II. This Leger was a great favourite of that prince, who built a handſome houſe for him at one ſide of the garden; but the Frenchman was ſo extravagant as to keep a ſeraglio, which ran him into debt, and obliged him at length to move off, before the gardens were quite finiſhed. The part he has executed is very beautiful. Fronting the draw-bridge is a fine piece of water, branching four different ways in the form of a croſs, and interſecting ſo many areas, which are beautifully variegated with ſhades, walks of lofty trees, and parterres of flowers. On the banks of the canal are twenty four beautiful ſtone ſtatues, done by a German ſculptor at Hamburg, in imitation of antiques. At the extremity of the garden is a hill, to which you aſcend by ſteps cut in the ſod, and on the top you have a charming proſpect of the lake and town of Schwerin, with the adjacent country.

So much for the palace and gardens of Schwerin: I ſhall conclude this letter with a ſhort view of the preſent ſtate of the court.

COURT of SCHWERIN.

The SOVEREIGN.

Frederick II. duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, born November the 9th, 1717, came to the ſovereignty April 30, 1756, upon the death of his father, Chriſtian Lewis II.

His CONSORT.

Louiſa Frederica, daughter of duke Frederick Lewis, hereditary prince of Wurtenburg Stutgard, and of princeſs Henrietta Maria of Brandenburg Suedt, born Feb. 3, 1722, and married 1749; but has had no children.

BROTHER and SISTERS to His SERENE HIGHNESS.

Lewis, prince of Mecklenburg Schwerin, only brother of the reigning duke, born Auguſt the 6th, 1725.

This prince married May the 14th, 1755, princeſs Charlotte Sophia, daughter of Francis Joſiah, duke of Saxe Saalfeld, which princeſs Charlotte Sophia was born Sep. the 24th, 1731.

Their ISSUE are,

1. Prince Frederick Francis, born December the 10th, 1756; now a ſtudent at Lauſanne.

2. Princeſs Sophia Frederica, born Auguſt 24, 1758.

The duke has only two ſiſters living:

1. Princeſs Ulrica, born July 1ſt, 1723.

2. Princeſs Amelia, born March the 3d, 1732.

The

The DUKE's Houſhold.

Marſhal of the court, baron de Lutzow.

Steward of the houſhold *, baron de Forſtner.

Chief cup bearer, baron de Zulow.

Chief gentleman of the bed-chamber, baron de Oertz.

Gentlemen of the bed-chamber, baron de Luhe, baron de Dorn, baron de Lutzow, baron de Pentz, baron de Klein, baron de Krakewitz, baron de Kamptz.

Great huntſman, baron de Pentz.

Maſter of the horſe, baron de Koppelow.

Steward of the houſhold to the ducheſs, baron de Drieberg.

Maid of honour, mademoiſelle de Suhm.

Maids of honour to princeſs Charlotte, Mademoiſelle de Drieberg, mademoiſelle de Wurmb.

Gentleman of the bed-chamber to prince Lewis, baron de Vietinghoff.

Maid of honour to princeſs Ulrica, mademoiſelle de Chambeaux.

Gentlemen in waiting to princeſs Ulrica, the count de Flohr, and baron de Stralendorff.

* The German term is Schloſs hauptman, that is, captain of the caſtle; which I tranſlated, in one of my former letters, by Mayor of the palace; but I think it comes nearer to Maggior domo, or ſteward of the houſhold.

Maids

Maids of honour to princeſs Amelia, madame de Winckſtern, mademoiſelle de Gluer.

Gentleman in waiting to princeſs Amelia, baron de Vieregg.

Governor to prince Frederick Francis, at Lauſanne, baron de Uſedom.

MINISTERS of STATE.

Premier, his excellency the count de Baſſewitz.

Baron de Teuffel de Birckenfei, at Ratisbon.

Baron de Lutzow.

Baron de Both.

Monſieur de Schmidt.

The CHAMBER of FINANCES.

Baron de Warnſtadt.

Baron de Mullern, privy counſellors.

Comptroller, baron de Kamptz.

LAW OFFICERS.

Chief director of juſtice, vacant.

Counſellor, the count de Grevenitz.

Preſident of the tribunal of Guſtrow, his Excellency the count de Baſſewitz.

Vice preſident, baron de Luhe.

Aſſeſſors, baron de Bulow, baron de Storch, baron de Prun.

The DUKE'S Body GUARDS.

Colonel, baron de Barſſe.

Major, baron de Schuckman.

Captains, baron d'Vietinghoff, baron Oldenburg, baron de Krakewitz, baron de Klein.

Lieutenants, baron de Muller, baron de Parſow, baron de Pei, ſen. baron de Pei, jun.

Commandant of the ducal reſidence of Schwerin, baron de Both, colonel of a regiment of foot.

Commandant of the city of Roſtock, baron de Gluer, colonel of a regiment of foot.

This is the beſt liſt I could procure of the perſons of rank belonging to this court: I ſhall not at preſent attempt to delineate their characters, being not as yet ſufficiently acquainted with them; ſo that you muſt wait till I am better informed. I am now juſt ſetting off for Ludewigs-Luſt, where I hope to find an ample field for entertaining your curioſity; at leaſt, my attention will convince you, that I am ever deſirous of ſhewing myſelf

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

LET-

LETTER XIX.

Ludewigs-Luſt, November 21, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I SET out from Schwerin for this place, in the duke's coach, the 14th inſtant, about one in the afternoon, in company with the court-chaplain Mr. Pallman, and Mr. Beneke, his highneſs's watch-maker: the former is a thin man of low ſtature, very ſenſible, and of exemplary morals; the latter is an Hanoverian from Hamel, a jolly handſome man, who ſpeaks pretty good Engliſh, having lived ſome time in London. The duke has opened a new road from Schwerin to Ludewigs-Luſt, appropriated to his highneſs's own private uſe. The country, all the way, is the duke's demeſne, and conſiſts chiefly of foreſt, with ſome ploughed lands. The diſtance is fifteen miles. We ſtopped at about half way, to admire a fine ſpot called the Star, round which are nine beautiful openings or viſtas, through the foreſt: not far from thence is an inn, called the half-way houſe, where we alighted to refreſh ourſelves; and reached this

place

place about five o'clock. An officer, called the caſtellan, introduced me to his room, where I drank coffee; he informed me that the duke and ducheſs had been abroad that afternoon, to take the air, and were but juſt returned; that he had apprized baron Zulow of my arrival, and received orders to conduct me to my apartment: this was called the young prince's, who lies in this room when he comes to Ludewigs-Luſt. There I ſtaid for above an hour, during which time, the court-phyſician, a very good natured gentleman, ſat and kept me company. About ſeven o'clock, two gentlemen came into the room, whom I found to be baron Lutzow, the privy-counſellor, and baron Zulow, the great cup-bearer. The former wore a white ribbon, as an enſign of the order of the elephant. Theſe were the noblemen to whom I had had recommendatory letters from baron Dewitz. They welcomed me to Ludewigs-Luſt in the politeſt terms, and declared their intention of contributing all in their power to render my ſtay agreeable. They told me that the duke and ducheſs were pleaſed to hear of my arrival, and that I ſhould be introduced to their highneſſes before ſupper. So much politeneſs required due compliments of thanks on my ſide, in which I flatter myſelf I was not deficient. The converſation ſoon turned upon the court of Strelitz; and they aſked very particularly after

baron

baron Dewitz, who is their intimate friend. Baron Lutzow then gave me an account of his late viſit to the king and queen of Denmark; and I found that he had been highly pleaſed with his commiſſion. Thus the time paſt away till nine o'clock, when the trumpet ſounded, which is the uſual ſummons to table at the courts of German princes.

We then adjourned to the ſaloon, in which their highneſſes uſually dine, and from thence I was conducted by the two barons, to an apartment on the left hand, where I found the duke and ducheſs ſtanding. Baron Zulow preſented me to their ſerene highneſſes, who received me with all that affability and condeſcenſion with which they ſo well know how to temper their princely dignity. The duke was dreſſed in blue, trimmed with gold: the ducheſs was in a riding habit, with a bag wig, and a cocked hat with a feather; a dreſs ſhe wears here every day, except on Sundays. After this ceremony was over, we went to ſup in the ſaloon, and I was ſeated next the duke. The company was very ſmall; the duke and ducheſs, mademoiſelle de Suhm, madam de Lutzow, madam de Zulow; baron Lutzow, baron Zulow, and baron Pentze; the three ladies were alſo in riding habits like the ducheſs. A page ſaid grace before and after ſupper. The entertainment was much the ſame as at the court of Strelitz; a ſoup and three courſes, with a deſert.

The

The duke and ducheſs converſed with me the whole time of ſupper with great chearfulneſs, and aſked me many queſtions concerning her majeſty. They had received the higheſt pleaſure at the news of her ſafe delivery; and during the time of her pregnancy, had ordered prayers for her throughout their dominions. The duke underſtands Engliſh a little, and expreſſes a ſtrong deſire of recovering his former knowlege of the language: he had been in London a few months, during the reign of the late duke his father, and regrets very much that his affairs at that time did not permit him to make a longer ſtay. After ſupper, we all ſtood up; the company broke into parties, the duke and ducheſs retiring into a corner of the room, where their highneſſes were pleaſed to honour me with their converſation for about an hour. The duke aſſured me, that my Hiſtory of Mecklenburg was approved of by the literati of his country, and that he could wiſh he were ſufficiently maſter of the Engliſh tongue, to read it in the original: both he and the ducheſs repeated what baron Zulow had informed me, that my viſit was very acceptable to them; and that the baron ſhould ſhew me the new improvements, in his gardens. I found the duke quite another perſon, from what he had been repreſented to me by ſeveral people, who talked of him

as a prince of too much auſterity and moroſeneſs; whereas, his behaviour towards me, was open, eaſy, and chearful; and during the whole time of converſation, he had a pleaſant ſmile on his countenance. I expreſſed my acknowledgements of thanks to his highneſs, for the great honour done me, adding that I had heard a great deal of the beauty and magnificence of his gardens, and ſhould no doubt find a pleaſure in ſurveying them with attention. Their highneſſes then withdrew; and, after a little chat with the noblemen and ladies, I alſo retired to my apartment.

The next morning, after breakfaſt, baron Zulow called upon me in order to make the intended ſurvey of the gardens. He was in a one-horſe chaiſe, which had no wheels, but rollers, to prevent any damage to the walks. The view of this fine place infinitely ſurpaſſed my expectation, and I took the whole forenoon to examine its moſt ſtriking beauties. The ſight was ſo raviſhing, that I have repeated it every day, and I find ſomething new each viſit. It ſurpaſſes, in my opinion, moſt of the gardens that I have ſeen throughout Europe. The duke himſelf planned the whole, taking nature for his pattern, and ſtriving to imitate her in her amiable ſimplicity, and all her beautiful irregularities. Theſe fill the mind with a more refined ſenſe of delight, than the moſt curious contrivances of art.

No

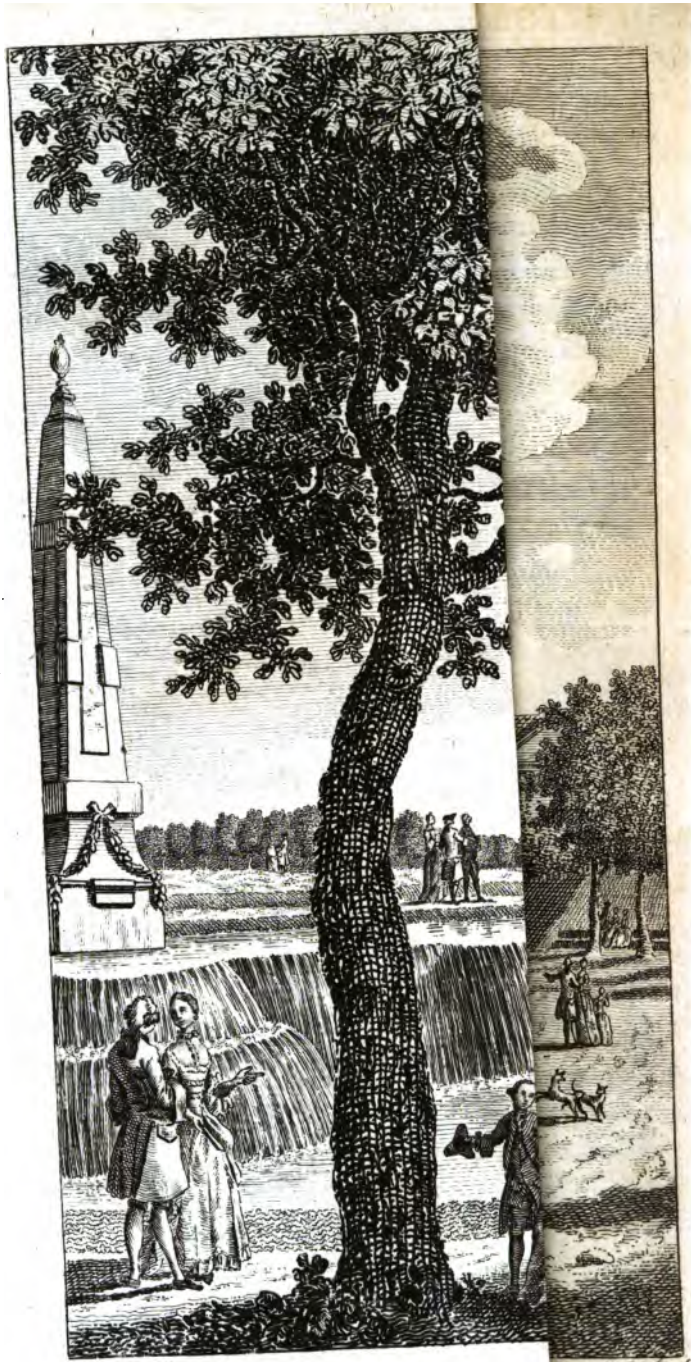
No widow'd plantane, nor clipp'd box-tree here,
The uſeleſs ſoil unprofitably ſhare;
But ſimple nature's hand, with nobler grace,
Diffuſes artleſs beauties o'er the place.

To give you a juſt deſcription of this paradiſe would require an abler pen than mine; I intend, however, to draw a ſketch of it; but firſt ſhall mention a word or two concerning the palace and the offices.

Ludewigs-Luſt, is a German word, ſignifying Lewis's Recreation or delight; it is only a hunting-ſeat, built by Chriſtian Lewis II. the preſent duke's father. Hence there is nothing magnificent in the building, as it was never intended for the duke's reſidence; but only became ſo by chance, from the great inclination his preſent highneſs has to retirement. Yet is it a very neat ſtructure, and makes a handſome appearance. It conſiſts only of a ground floor, with wings on each ſide for the gentlemen and ladies attending their highneſſes. The body of the building is ſixty-five feet in breadth, with fourteen windows in front. The entrance is through a ſmall portico, which leads to a handſome ſalon, where the duke and ducheſs dine. On the right hand are the duke's apartments, very ſmall, but well contrived. They conſiſt of four rooms, elegantly furniſhed, and

filled with all manner of curioſities. One of theſe is the duke's cabinet, or muſæum, in which he has all his mechanical inſtruments. In the other rooms are very fine paintings, and particularly portraits, among which, thoſe of the ducheſs and princeſs Ulrica are much admired. Here is likewiſe a fine muſical clock, with which the duke was preſented by her majeſty. There are ſeveral other mechanical curioſities, which would take up too much time at preſent to enumerate. Perhaps I may have another opportunity of giving you a complete liſt of the duke's muſæum here, and at Schwerin. On the left hand of the ſalon, are the ducheſs's apartments, much of the ſame dimenſions as the duke's, and elegantly furniſhed. But both theſe apartments are much too ſmall for their highneſſes, and the duke intends very ſoon to erect on this his favourite ſpot, a magnificent palace.

The duke's ſtables, on the right hand, are a ſtructure equally beautiful and ſolid, built after the manner of the king of France's ſtables at Verſailles, and much with the like diſpoſitions. They contain ſeparate ſtalls for a vaſt number of horſes, all remarkable for their goodneſs and beauty. In the centre is the figure of a horſe's head, which ſpouts out of its mouth, into a ſtone trough, a large quantity of water. The whole is neat and elegant;



The Grand Cascade, on del. & sculp.

gant; and the duke's grooms, and other ſervants belonging to the ſtables, are lodged here in a very convenient manner.

Before the palace is a handſome parade, and at the diſtance of 118 paces, a large canal, which forms a noble and magnificent caſcade. This caſcade is 100 paces in length; the water diſcharges itſelf, in one great ſheet, into another bed, which runs, at a ſmall diſtance from thence, into the garden. In the middle of the canal, is a beautiful water-clock, of the duke's own ingenious contrivance. On the right and left are two houſes, lately built, in the reſemblance of ruined edifices, and ſomewhat in the nature of Lord Holland's towers, in the iſle of Thanet. At the diſtance of ſixty paces from the grand caſcade, is a fine baſon, of a circular figure, 300 paces in circumference. On the right, is a ſluice to let out the water. What is very extraordinary, five years ago there was no water at Ludewigs-Luſt. This famous canal was made by the preſent duke at an immenſe expence, by cauſing a great ditch to be dug from the lake of Schwerin, and another from the river Elde; the waters conveyed by theſe channels, join by a ſluice near a place called Frederick's-moor, and glide gently on, in one united ſtream, to Ludewigs-Luſt, where they form ſuch a variety of beautiful caſcades and fountains.

On the right and left of the grand baſon, are the maiſonettes, or offices, lately built by the duke, for ſervants and artificers, as engravers, painters, &c. of whom his highneſs entertains a conſiderable number. They are neat, convenient houſes, conſiſting only of a ground-floor, but all uniform, and making a pretty appearance. The whole is terminated by a new church, lately begun, which, when finiſhed, will be one of the fineſt in this country. It is intended to be the pariſh church, the old one having been ſo ruinous, that it was ſcarce either ſafe or decent to be left ſtanding any longer. The ſhell only is done at preſent, but they go on with the work very faſt, and expect to finiſh it in a year or two. The church is ſixty-ſeven paces in length, and forty-five in breadth. So much for the houſe; I now come to the gardens.

The gardens of Ludewigs-Luſt are properly what the inhabitants of the eaſtern countries called by the name of Paradiſe; viz. a large ſpace of ground, adorned with all ſorts of trees, both of fruits and of foreſt; partly cultivated, like our gardens, for ſhades and walks, with ſtreams and fountains, and a variety of plants uſual in the climate; and partly incloſed, like our parks, for harbouring game, as well as for the pleaſure of riding and walking.

The

The form of the ground is flat, except a few eminences raiſed by art, to diverſify the proſpect.

On the back of the palace is the leſſer garden, 269 paces in length, and terminating in the park. It is fenced round with a paliſade, and encloſed on each ſide with a wall. In the middle are two gates, one on the right, leading to the kitchen-garden, and another on the left, leading to the park and the great canal. Theſe gates are 166 paces diſtant from the paliſade. The breadth, from one gate to the other, is 151 paces. The garden is adorned with two baſons; theſe are lined with pebbles, forming a variety of figures, and in each of the baſons is a jet d'eau. There are alſo four handſome ſtone ſtatues; thoſe repreſenting Muſic and Painting, the one by Mignot, and the other by Gillet, are greatly eſteemed. On each ſide of the walls are fine ſhady walks; and the garden is enchantingly variegated with a number of labyrinths, groves, and parterres.

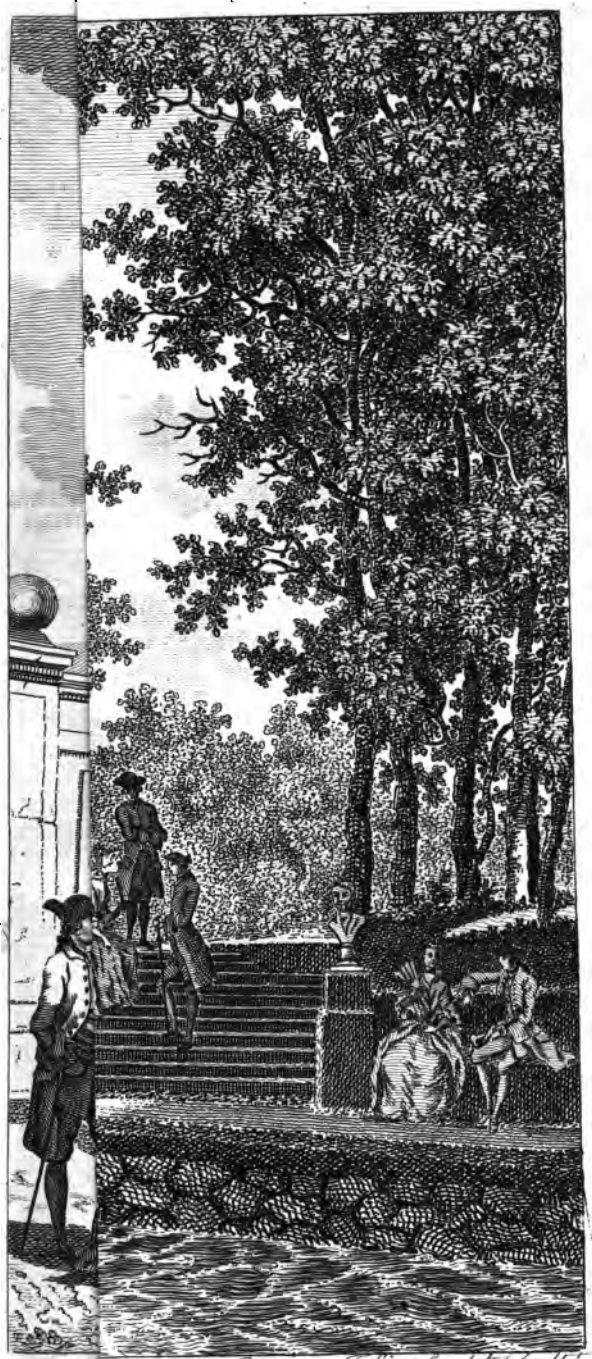
The kitchen-garden towards the gate on the right hand, is of about the ſame dimenſions as the other; in the middle of it is a fine piece of water, with a handſome bridge, which gives it a moſt agreeable appearance.

Fronting the garden-gate, on the left hand, is a beautiful avenue, with a lake or large piece

of water before it, ſupplied by the great canal; this canal, after forming the grand caſcade, runs into the garden; but before entering the lake, it forms another caſcade on the left; and over it is a bridge leading to the coach-road. On the right ſide of the lake ſtands a pleaſant ſummer-houſe, adorned with a variety of paintings, by the beſt maſters. Before it is a wide avenue, but of no great length, with a ſmall caſcade on the left; and on the back of the ſummer-houſe is a long alley of trees, with a purling ſtream, forming two beautiful caſcades. In this ſummer-houſe is alſo the model of the new church of Ludewigs-Luſt.

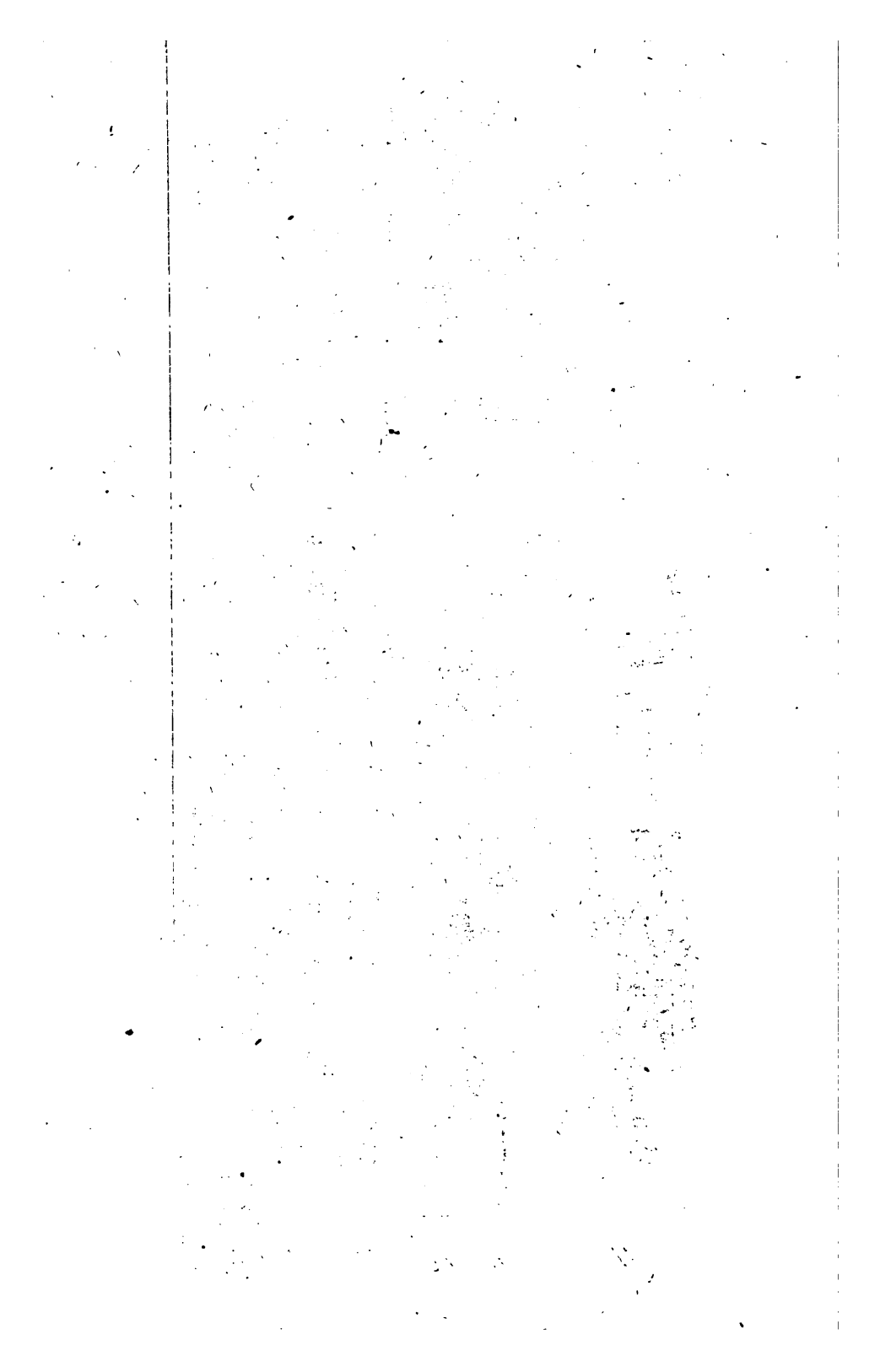
Finding myſelf very cold in the chaiſe, I propoſed to the baron to get out and walk, and at a ſmall diſtance from the ſummer-houſe my eye was raviſhed with a magnificent proſpect: three beautiful avenues appeared in view, with canals in two of them, almoſt outſtretching the ſight. That on the right is the above-mentioned, facing the ſummer-houſe; that on the left is of a vaſt length, but not adorned with a canal. The third avenue exactly faces the lake or great piece of water, which forms a beautiful ſtream, running in a ſtraight line to the end of a noble viſta of about four Engliſh miles: at the entrance of this avenue a handſome bridge over the canal, with the following inſcription on ſtone, Frede-

ricus



T. Simpson del. T. Sculp.

Ludenvigslust.



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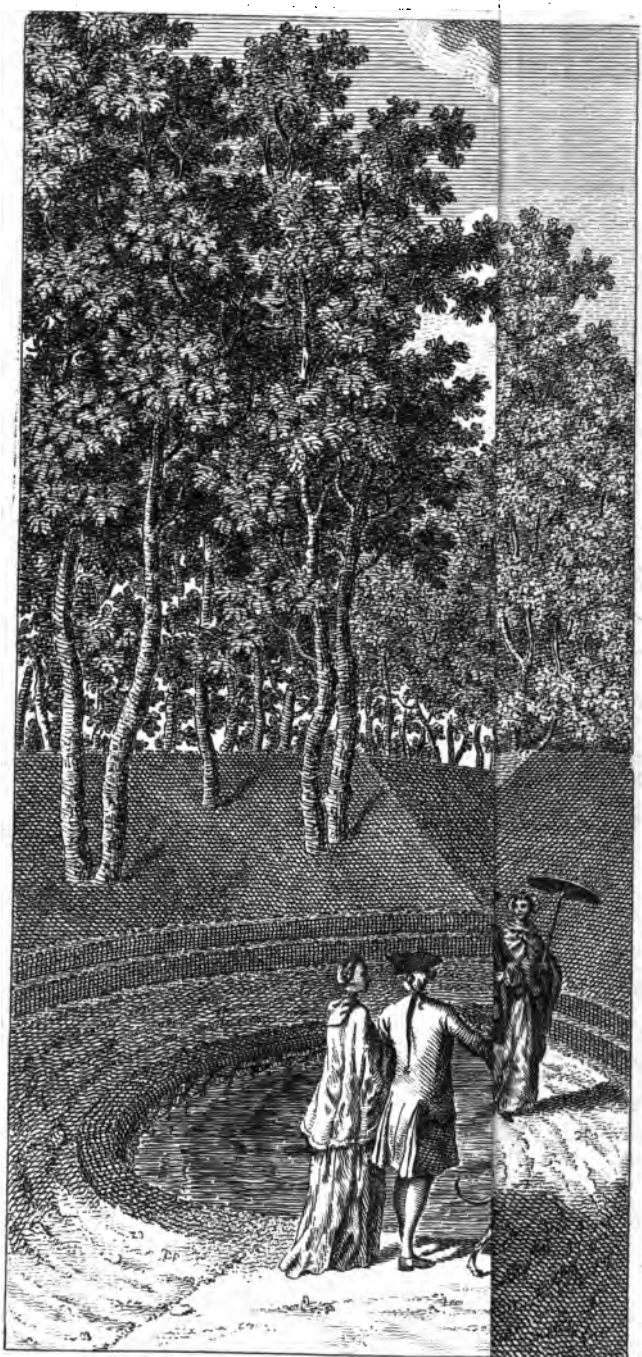

...z del.t & sculp.t

The 2 Cascades with the Jet d'Eau, dewigslust.

ricus D. G. Dux Megapolitanus MDCCLX. Here the water iſſues in a very ſtrong current from the great baſon into the canal, and forms two beautiful caſcades. This paradiſiacal ſcene is heightened by the number of milk-white ſwans, diſporting on the ſurface of the baſon. At the entrance of the wood is a very good foot-way, on each ſide the canal, with a variety of buſtos raiſed on the banks of this delightful ſtream. A little farther on, is a bridge with a caſcade, and a handſome jet d'eau. The banks of the canal are variegated in imitation of nature, being ſometimes bare and gravelly, ſometimes covered with wood quite to the water's edge, and in ſome places covered in ſummer time with flowers and ſhrubs. At a ſmall diſtance on each ſide, are rows of alder trees, of an amazing height, which, in the ſultry weather, ſeclude the ſcorching rays of the ſun. The park and wood are well ſtocked with deer, and eſpecially with wild boars, numbers of which I was delighted to ſee croſſing the water; they do no harm to ſuch as do not attempt to moleſt them, but when irritated in the chace, they are extremely ferocious. Baron Zulow told me, that the firſt time general Græme ſaw a living wild boar, was in this very park.

Continuing our walk on the right ſide of the canal, we came to Cæſar's grove, ſo called from the buſtos of the twelve Cæſars, placed round

The Circle Cascade

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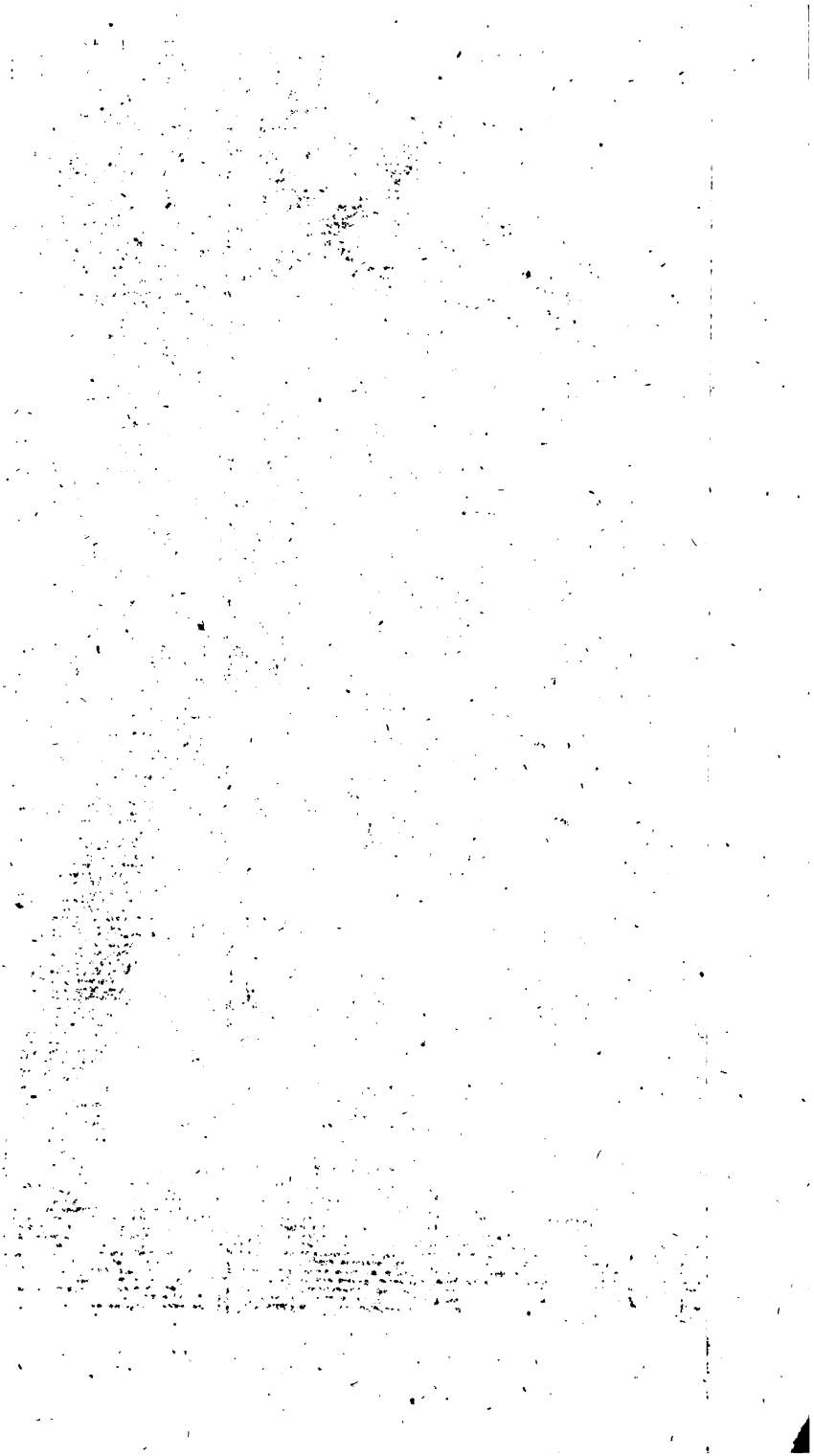

T. Simpson del. & sculp.

A Prospect of a Sluice in the Garden to let the Water, & shut, again

If the perfection of a garden conſiſts in the number, beauty, and diverſity of the ſcenes, thoſe of Ludewigs-Luſt richly deſerve that character. After the eye has been refreſhed with the moſt rural beauties, it is gradually led to thoſe of the enchanting kind, where artifices excite ſurprize. Thus, from the circle-caſcade, where a variety of agreeable objects are combined in ſuch a manner as to form a moſt amuſing ſcene, I ſoon was drawn into another, which ſtruck me with amaze and ſome mixture of terror. This was the great ſluice, a moſt ingenious machine, of the duke's own invention.

Here I ſat me down on a bank, feaſting my eye with the luxuriant ſtore of nature's beauties, when a thundering noiſe ſhook my whole frame, and the flood-gates of the oppoſite ſide, inſtantaneouſly opening, poured out a torrent ſo unexpected, ſo copious and rapid, that I was afraid the baron and I ſhould be overwhelmed by the inundation; but inſtantly the machine cloſed again of itſelf, and ſtemmed the impetuoſity of the foaming element. The baron told me that his highneſs had ſent over to the queen a drawing of this machine, with an explanation of the mechaniſm. After I had recovered from my fright, and with a curious eye ſurveyed the machine, I proceeded in my walk, till I came to another caſcade

caſcade, where a little iſland is formed in the canal, with two bridges leading to each ſide. Here again the wood opens, with fourteen cuts or apertures, terminating in ſo many points of view, of different length and beauty; ſome in lawns and ſpacious plains, others in hills and vales, others in ſtately trees and groves, others in flocks of ſheep, others in ſilver lakes; but all together forming a glorious groupe, where taſte and harmony are moſt happily combined. Not far from thence, continuing in a direct line, is another caſcade, where alſo is formed a round iſland, with a bridge on each ſide of the canal. Here I found another aperture in the wood, and my eye was raviſhed with four different proſpects.

At length I reached the point terminating the viſta at the entrance of the grand avenue. Here I eſpied a thick grove, with a ſmall caſcade on the right. Turning to the left, the canal divides itſelf into two branches, forming a pretty long iſland. This was my *ne plus ultra*; the ſtream afterwards loſes itſelf in the wood, and falls at length into the Elde. The park, adorned with theſe magnificent water-works, is fourteen miles in circumference, well ſtocked with deer, and rich in fine timber. The trees are oak, beech, alder, but eſpecially the latter, which grow to a ſurprizing height.

Thus have I given you a ſketch of the

delightful gardens of Ludewigs-Luſt; but it is a very imperfect ſketch indeed, and none but a Homer ſhould attempt to delineate ſuch gardens. For ſurely neither Alcinous, nor any others mentioned in fabulous writings, could ſurpaſs what art and nature have realized in this part of the world. And yet, if this place has appeared to me ſo enchanting and ſo heavenly, at this ſeaſon of the year, when the ſun from afar peeps with a ſickly face, and nature hath almoſt loſt its green livery, what effect do you think it would have in the vernal ſeaſon, when every bough is decked with new leaves, and the exhilarated birds, hopping from ſpray to ſpray, warble through the grove, and

Both ears and eyes receive a like delight,
Enchanting muſic, and a charming ſight.

How truly might I then ſay with the poet!

Ah happy grove! dark and ſecure retreat
Of ſacred ſilence, reſt's eternal ſeat;
How willingly could I for ever ſtay,
Pleas'd with the gentle murmur of theſe ſtreams!
This ſhadowing deſert, unfrequented woods,
I better brook than flouriſhing peopled towns:
Here I can ſit alone unſeen of any.

Oh!

Oh! if kind Heaven had been ſo much my friend,
To make my fate upon my choice depend,
All my ambition I would here confine,
And only this elyſium ſhould be mine.

After I had pretty well ſurveyed this paradiſe, I got back to my apartment time enough for dinner, and found the ſame company as the preceding evening. Our dinner was a ſoup, three courſes and a deſert; and this is the conſtant rule of the duke's table. Their highneſſes aſked me how I liked the park and gardens, and upon my expreſſing the great delight I had received, the duke told me he would make me a preſent of the etchings of the chief beauties of Ludewigs-Luſt; for which I thanked his highneſs. After dinner, we went to ſee the riding-maſter exerciſing ſome young horſes; and the duke ſeemed to take a great pleaſure in their fine appearance, though he does not ride himſelf, being deterred by a fall, ſome time ago, by which he was very much hurt. As I was returning to my apartment, baron Zulow deſired me to go and ſee a wild boar, which had been killed that day in the foreſt. It was a very large one, reſembling pretty much a ſwine, and was ſerved up the next day at table. The Mecklenburg nobility

are

are particularly fond of the head, which they have a way of curing, and is very delicate eating. The beſt part of the evening, baron Zulow ſpent with me in my apartment, and after he was gone, M. Pallman, the court-preacher, came and chatted awhile with me. He never dines with the duke, nor is any clergyman admitted to this prince's table. This is an etiquette of the court of Mecklenburg Schwerin, not from any diſlike to the ſacred order, the duke being very religious, and ſhewing great regard, in other reſpects, for ſuch of the clergy who endeavour to edify the people by their exemplary behaviour, and purity of morals. Before ſupper, I preſented the duke with a copy of my Vandalia, which his highneſs received very graciouſly, and only regretted that he had not the happineſs of being ſufficiently acquainted with the Engliſh language. His highneſs took me into his cabinet, which is very curious, and deſerving a traveller's notice. This prince, as I mentioned to you before, is a great mechanic, and ſpends his leiſure hours in this uſeful ſtudy. He ſhewed me, among other things, a picture of the queen, very like her majeſty. It was no ſmall regret to him, that he had never ſeen that amiable princeſs, though he is perſonally acquainted with all the reſt of her branch.

We

We went to ſupper at nine, which is the uſual hour, and during the whole time of repaſt, the duke and ducheſs did me the honour to aſk me a variety of queſtions about England. There is little or no ceremony here in point of dreſs; the gentlemen wear no ſwords, and even ſit down in their boots with the duke. His highneſs conſtantly appears in the ſame apparel. The ladies are always in a riding habit, as going an airing every day with the ducheſs. This, however, becomes them very well, and with their hats and bag wigs, they appear like Amazons. After ſupper, their highneſſes retired to one part of the room, where they continued to chat with me for above an hour; and this has been their conſtant practice every day ſince I have been here. The converſation turned on the late ravages committed by the Pruſſians in the duchy of Mecklenburg. The duke was obliged to retire to Lubeck, but the ducheſs and princeſs Ulrica ſtaid at Ludewigs-Luſt. Their highneſſes ſpoke with ſome indignation of the Pruſſians, and repreſented the outrages committed by thoſe troops as exceeding the uſual limits of hoſtilities. For inſtance, the duke's very palaces were not ſpared, but the barbarous ſoldiers ſeized every thing they could lay their hands on. But what gave moſt uneaſineſs to the ducheſs was, that the Pruſſian command-

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ant happened to be her own couſin, the prince of Wurtenberg, who behaved to her and her ſiſter without the leaſt regard either to kindred, or even to ſex or rank. Beſides, ſhe is a near relation of his Pruſſian majeſty, and from ſuch a connexion ſhe flattered herſelf with the hopes of being treated with ſome conſideration. She owns, indeed, that the behaviour of the ſubaltern officers was more decent than that of the chief commander, her couſin of Wurtemberg, who acted his part with great haughtineſs and ſeverity. All he deigned to ſay in excuſe was, that he muſt execute his orders; which muſt have been very ſevere, for he produced a letter in which the Pruſſian monarch makes uſe of the terms, *ecraſez les*, meaning the Mecklenburghers. Her highneſs promiſed to give me a minute account of the violences and depredations committed by the Pruſſians during their ſhort ſtay in this country, which I fancy will be worthy of your curioſity. About eleven the duke and ducheſs retired, and I withdrew to my apartment, where the murmuring of the great caſcade ſoon lulled me to ſleep.

The next day, being Sunday, I roſe early in the morning, and baron Zulow came and breakfaſted with me, bringing with him the Amſterdam Gazette, and the French Mercure. I aſked him when, and where, divine

divine ſervice was to be performed; he told me, that, till the church was finiſhed, the duke's chaplain read prayers in the dining-hall. I amuſed myſelf after breakfaſt with the news-papers, and then went to take a new ſurvey of the park and gardens, a practice I have conſtantly obſerved ſince I have been at Ludewigs-Luſt. I returned by dinner-time, and waited on baron Zulow, who conducted me to the hall, when the trumpet ſounded. The weather being very fine, the duke had been out a-walking, and was not yet return'd; but the ducheſs ſat down to dinner, for his highneſs does not chuſe they ſhould wait, when he has paſſed the fixed time. The dutcheſs and the ladies were full dreſſed, as they always are on Sundays; and the difference of their appearance was ſo great, that I hardly knew them. We had not been a quarter of an hour at table, when the duke came in, attended only by one of the gentlemen in waiting; we all roſe till he ſat down, when he made a kind of apology for not coming to his time. So much condeſcenſion in a ſovereign prince, ſurpriſed me very much, and afforded me the ſtrongeſt proof of his benignity and good nature. Forms and ceremonies are the ſhackles of princes, and the farther they withdraw from outward pageantry, the nearer they approach to domeſtick happineſs.

After

After dinner the duke and dutchess retired, as usual, into a corner of the hall, where his highness thought proper to enter upon the topic of religion. There was nothing gloomy or sour in his looks, nothing precise in his talk or demeanour; but a chearful easy conversation, mixed with sentiments of true piety. This good prince has read and meditated a great deal; and, latterly, his thoughts have been applied chiefly to religion. I was surprised to find him so great a master of the abstruser points of metaphysics, among which I may reckon his proofs of the existence of a deity, and of the immortality of the soul. He is well acquainted with all Descartes' arguments, and produced them in the course of conversation, but without the least air of ostentation, or literary vanity. I observed, that he greatly lamented the decline of religion in the present age, and especially among statesmen, who reduce it to a meer political engine. Yet even among the heathens, religion was reckoned the foundation of government. *Religio*, says Tacitus, *fundamentum principatus*. And this same historian, directing a prince how to govern his people, gives him this advice: *veneretur princeps unum illud summum & æternum, neque mutabile, neque interiturum numen, ut consilia sua reip. prosperet.* But the corruption of the present age, added the duke, should never deter a prince from enforcing religion by

authority and example; and provided he discharges his duty, he ſhould be indifferent about what the herd of wordlings, ſtateſmen, or politicians, ſay in regard to his conduct. As for himſelf he was blamed, he knew, by ſeveral, for living too retired; yet thoſe haſty cenſurers were abſolutely unacquainted with his reaſons, and the neceſſity of his affairs. The conduct of his uncle, duke Charles Leopold, had involved his country in very great difficulties, by draining it of men and money, and encumbering it with a heavy mortgage; it was therefore his duty to live retired, and to forego all pleaſures, (for which, however, he is not without a taſte as well as other princes), in order to lighten the burden of his people. In the ſilence of this retirement, he avoids all diſſipation, by which means he is better qualified for buſineſs, than if he lived in Schwerin, where he might be engaged, or it would be expected he ſhould engage in a round of idle pleaſures and amuſements. He often ſits up till two or three in the morning, and many imagine, he is buſying himſelf with mathematical problems, whilſt he is employing his thoughts about the eaſe and relief of his people. He cannot think of pleaſure, when his ſubjects are diſtreſſed; if they are happy, that is ſufficient felicity for him: but the road to happineſs is œconomy, induſtry, and above all, a true ſenſe of religion. Hence he has thought proper to reſtrain the theatrical entertainments,

tainments, eſtabliſhed at Schwerin in the reign of his late father; becauſe, though he is ſenſible, that the ſtage, under proper regulations, might be rendered inſtructive, and perhaps conducive to good morals; yet, experience has always ſhown, its conſequences to be quite the reverſe. Beſides in a ſmall ſtate, ſuch as the duchy of Mecklenburg, plays would be an encouragement to ideneſs, and extravagance; promote diſſipation, and divert the ſpirit of induſtry. This, and a good deal more, his highneſs ſaid in the courſe of converſation; and I muſt own, I was greatly delighted, and improved, with the ſublime ſentiments of ſo wiſe and religious a prince.

Our converſation was interrupted by the bell for prayers, when the duke retired into his apartment on the right hand, and the ducheſs into hers on the left. The duke was by himſelf, but the ducheſs was attended by the ladies and noblemen, whom I had the honour of accompanying. The doors of both apartments were open, ſo that we could ſee the clergyman, who officiated in the hall, which ſerved occaſionally for a chapel. The duke's ſervants, and the people of the village, filled the hall; in the middle of which, was erected a pulpit for the preacher. This was my friend, M. Pallman, the ſame who came with me in the coach from Schwerin. The ſervice was very long, but I was

greatly pleaſed to hear them chant their hymns with ſuch melody and devotion. The muſic being over, Mr. Pallman began his ſermon, which was certainly a well compoſed diſcourſe. But he has not a very happy delivery, as appeared by the behaviour of a conſiderable part of his hearers. The ducheſs and the ladies were on one ſide of the room; the gentlemen on the other. The preacher had not harangued his audience above a quarter of an hour, when I obſerved, that the ducheſs took to her needle, immediately another lady did the ſame, and one or two more fell to knotting. This they continued the remainder of the ſermon, which laſted a full hour and a half.

After ſevice the ducheſs ſhewed me two fine portraits of our queen, one large, and the other ſmall; the latter ſhe received as a preſent from her majeſty. She likewiſe ſhewed me two excellent portraits of the young prince and princeſs, the only children of prince Lewis, the duke's brother, both of them done by M. Matthieu, his highneſs's painter. I then retired to my apartment, where baron Zulow came and paid me a viſit. He made ſome very good punch, and we ſpent the evening together. Among ſeveral other things, I took notice to him of the behaviour of the ducheſs, and her ladies, during the ſermon, a behaviour which I confeſs had greatly ſurpriſed me. He ſmiled, and ſaid, that the ladies

ladies in that country do not apprehend it to be any breach of the ſabbath to work at their needle, as it is no ſervile or mercenary labour: but eſpecially if they are condemned to hear a bad preacher, they think it much better to employ themſelves at their needle, or at knotting, than to fall aſleep. Whether their opinion be juſt or not, he would not pretend to ſay, but this he was ſure, that if they conceived they were acting right, their action could not be criminal. It was not my buſineſs to enter into a point of caſuiſtry, much leſs to cenſure the ducheſs, and ſo many fair ladies; ſo that I urged nothing farther. We went to ſupper with the duke and ducheſs, at the uſual time, where the converſation turned on England, and its various diverſions. The duke ſeems to retain a lively idea of Vauxhall, which he looks upon as the moſt elegant place of public entertainment in Europe. Baron Lutzow then turned the converſation, by reading a long account of earthquakes in Martinico, which bringing theſe phænomena on the carpet, the duke ſhewed his knowledge was not limited to mechanics and divinity. Such a variety of ſubjects led us on till it was pretty late, when the duke and ducheſs diſmiſſed the company, and we retired to our apartments.

The next day I roſe early to go to a hunting ſeat of the duke's, called Frederick's Moor,

and reckoned one of the moſt delightful ſpots in this country. My companion was the reverend M. Pallman. We ſet out about eight, in the duke's chaiſe, the morning very fine, but piercingly cold. We paſſed through a little wood, and then croſſing a large heath, we reached the Lawitz. This is the largeſt foreſt in the duchy of Mecklenburg, being thirty-four miles in circumference, all belonging entirely to the duke. The trees are beach, oak, and alder, but chiefly the latter. By ten we arrived at Frederick's Moor, where we called upon the duke's game-keeper, who gave us a very kind reception. After we had refreſhed ourſelves with a glaſs of wine, the game-keeper went to ſhow us the houſe, which is nothing extraordinary, being moſtly of wood. The room above ſtairs is very pleaſant, affording a full view of the grand canal, which runs to Ludewigs-Luſt. The proſpect would be ſtill more grand, were there an opening on the ſide of Ludewigs-Luſt; but this is obſtructed by a chimney. From thence we took a walk to the ſluice, where we had a charming view of three great avenues cut through the foreſt. In each of theſe is a fine ſtream, all three joining in the grand canal: the firſt comes from a neighbouring hill; the ſecond is a cut from the Elde; the third, and principal, is from the lake of Schwerin. Having ſatisfied our curioſity

curioſity we ſet off on our return to Ludewigs-Luſt, where we did not arrive till the duke and ducheſs had dined. Mr. Pallman dined with me in my apartment. In the evening baron Zulow came and chatted with us, till it was time to go to ſupper.

Thoſe who make pleaſure their chief ſtudy, would reckon this a moſt uncouth place, for there are no balls, no aſſemblies, no cards, or gaming of any ſort; the duke being quite averſe to all ſuch amuſements. As this is his ſeat of retirement, he has a right to make what regulations he pleaſes, within the circle of his own family. But the young people eſpecially do not like ſo much ſolitude; which makes them call it the *Temple de l'Ennui.* We went to ſupper pretty late, and I gave the duke and the ducheſs an account of my expedition, with which they ſeemed to be well pleaſed. We began afterwards to talk of manufactures, whence the duke took occaſion to commend thoſe of England. The ducheſs ſhowed me a fine watch, which her majeſty had ſent her from England, with her picture in miniature; a preſent indeed worthy of ſo great a princeſs. The duke then told me, I ſhould go the next day with baron Lutzow, to ſee the palace of Neuſtadt, where his father had reſided for ſome time. I thanked his highneſs for the honour intended me; upon

which he wiſhed me a-good-night, and we all retired.

The next day baron Lutzow and I ſet out from Ludewig's-Luſt at nine in the morning, to ſee the town and palace of Neuſtadt, about ten miles off. We drove through a fine open country, conſiſting chiefly of arable land, and reached Neuſtadt by half an hour after ten: we alighted at an apothecary's, where we refreſhed ourſelves with cakes and wine; for the apothecaries, all over the north of Germany, ſell wines by way of cordial. And formerly the ſame cuſtom obtained in England. In the mean while the caſtellan was ſent for to ſhow us the palace: he is a native of Sileſia, and has been long in the ſervice of his highneſs. After a ſhort exchange of civilities, we took a turn about the town, and then proceeded to the palace.

Neuſtadt is a ſmall town, agreeably ſituated on the river Elde, in a fine ſporting country. It was formerly a village, known by the name of Lefenitz, a Sclavonic term, ſignifying a wood or foreſt, to which it is contiguous. In the thirteenth century Gunzelinus II. count of Schwerin, founded a town on this ſpot, and gave it the name it ſtill retains, which implies a New Town. It ſuffered greatly by a fire in 1728, and has not as yet been able to recover itſelf. Such calamities, as I have mentioned to you before, are frequent in this country; this

this very day, a great fire happened in the neighbourhood of Ludewigs-Luſt, in a farm-houſe belonging to the duke, which did conſiderable damage, and is ſaid to be owing to an incendiary.

The palace is ſmall, but elegant; it was built by duke Adolphus Frederic I. as a hunting ſeat. The preſent duke's father made it his conſtant reſidence, till the death of his brother, Charles Leopold, when he went to live at Schwerin. It is almoſt a quadrangular pile, the architecture pretty regular, and not crowded with ornaments. On each ſide is a ſmall projection, in the nature of wings; but in the middle of the main body there is an elevation ſomewhat irregular, which breaks the uniformity of the upper ſtory. The great hall is ſpacious and handſome; the apartments on the right and left are commodious and well furniſhed, particularly the room fronting the garden. Here is a large table of maſſive ſilver, with two great candleſticks, five feet high, of the ſame metal, which were removed to Lubeck, together with all the other coſtly furniture, when the Pruſſians, in the late war, invaded the duchy of Mecklenburg. The ſame caution was alſo uſed at the caſtle of Schwerin. The duke's cabinet is very beautiful, and well ſtocked with natural and artificial curioſities. The rooms adjoining are called the gallery, being full of exquiſite paintings. Among

theſe is a variety of Dutch pieces, by the beſt maſters. There is alſo a fine collection of family portraits; that of the preſent duke, when but two years old, is much admired. The portrait of Charles XII. king of Sweden is a maſterpiece; and thoſe of Peter the Great, and the laſt unfortunate czar, deſerve the higheſt commendation. The hunting pieces muſt be particularly pleaſing to all lovers of field-ſports. In ſhort to enumerate the various paintings in this valuable collection, would be a work of too much time in my preſent ſituation. Were the pictures of this palace, and thoſe of the caſtle of Schwerin, placed in one gallery, they would form a collection which might rival thoſe of moſt of the princes in Germany. The dining-room opens to a balcony, from whence I had a proſpect of the river Elde winding round a fruitful plain, and dividing itſelf into two branches, which form an iſland laid out into a beautiful garden. The country all round is watered with a number of ſtreams, and charmingly variegated with hills, dales, woods, and lawns. From this fine room we proceeded to the duke's apartments, which are both elegant and convenient, but the furniture ſeems to be a little upon the decay. The ſecond floor contains lodging-rooms for the ſeveral officers and ſervants of the houſhold. We went upon the leads, where we enjoyed one of the fineſt

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proſpects in Europe; but the ſtation being too airy for me, in this ſharp weather, to ſtand there long, we returned down and took a turn in the garden. It is a beautiful ſpot of ground, of no large extent, but diſpoſed in the beſt taſte, with variety of avenues, walks, viſtas, and ſome handſome ſtatues. After we had ſurveyed every thing belonging to the palace, the caſtellan deſired we would take a view of the old caſtle, on the other ſide of the river. It is a ruinous building, with a very high tower in a tottering condition. Our conductor told us, that it was here the famous Waldemar II, king of Denmark, was confined by Henry I. count of Schwerin; but I know he is miſtaken, for, by undoubted accounts, the above-mentioned monarch was impriſoned in the caſtle of Danneberg.

Having ſeen every thing worth notice in Neuſtadt, we ſet out for Ludewigs-Luſt, at one o'clock. By the way we met a great number of waggons loaded with glaſs, coming from a place called Buchen, where they have a pretty good manufactory. Their highneſſes had dined before our return, ſo that the cloth was laid in my apartment. Baron Zulow came and inquired how we did after our journey, and brought in a great bowl of ſtrong punch, made of arrack and champagne. The Germans have a notion, that in England we are all fond of punch, and like it very ſtiff, neither of which is true

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in regard to me; ſo that I am often puniſhed where civility is intended. True politeneſs, according to dean Swift, is the art of making thoſe eaſy with whom we converſe; for want of underſtanding which, even thoſe who move in a higher ſphere, often give their inferiors pain. After a good deal of chit-chat, baron Zulow took his leave of us, being obliged to ſet out early the next morning for Schwerin, on account of a law-ſuit regarding his lady, who is of the noble family of Molcke. He was pleaſed to tell me he hoped to ſee me ſoon in Schwerin, where he ſhould be proud of ſhewing me every mark of his regard.

We went to ſupper at the uſual hour of nine, and both the duke and ducheſs were very inquiſitive after my journey. I acquainted them with the ſatisfaction I had received from the ſurvey of the palace of Neuſtadt, with which they ſeemed to be not a little pleaſed. A variety of ſubjects came upon the carpet, among others, that of etymologies, and I found that the duke was highly delighted with my pointing out the derivation of a multitude of Engliſh words from the Saxon. Then followed a digreſſion to boxing and cock-fighting, and their highneſſes ſeemed to be diverted with my account of the matter, which you may judge was but ſuperficial, being no connoiſſeur in either of thoſe profound topics. The ducheſs ſoon after aſked me whether

ther I knew madam de Bielke, whom I mentioned to you with great reſpect in one of my letters from Hamburg: upon my anſwering in the affirmative, her highneſs talked a good deal in commendation of that lady: particularly ſhe expatiated on the conſtancy of her affection for the late Mr. Cope, of Hamburg; to whom madam de Bielke is ſaid to have been promiſed in marriage. After the cataſtrophe of that unfortunate gentleman, ſhe went into mourning, and being aſked the reaſon, ſhe generouſly made anſwer, it was becauſe ſhe had loved him. The thread of diſcourſe led her highneſs to give me an account of an excurſion ſhe had made ſome years ago with the preſent duke, in his father's reign, and of the manner of paſſing her time at Aix-la-Chapelle. Here ſhe ſaid ſhe had the pleaſure of making acquaintance with admiral Knowles and his lady, having lodged at the ſame houſe, and ſupped with them at their marriage. Many were the fine things her highneſs ſaid of that amiable pair, but ſhe particularly expreſſed her regard for the admiral's abilities and genteel accompliſhments. From thence a tranſition was made to the famous king Theodore, and ſeveral remarks were made on the hard fate of that unfortunate adventurer. Their highneſſes were very much pleaſed with the following inſcription on his tomb, which I happened to remember.

Near

Near this place is interred Theodore king of Corſica, who died in this pariſh, Dec. 11, 1756, immediately after leaving the King's-bench priſon by the benefit of the late act of inſolvency: in conſequence of which he regiſtered the kingdom of Corſica for the uſe of his creditors.

The grave, great teacher, to a level brings
Heroes and beggars, galley-ſlaves and kings:
But Theodore this moral learn'd, ere dead,
Fate pour'd its leſſons on his living head,
Beſtow'd a kingdom, and denied him bread.

As I happened to mention, that I had often viſited King Theodore in his confinement, and had the honour of treating his Majeſty now and then with a bottle of wine, the duke aſked me, whether his misfortunes had rendered him intemperate? I anſwered, that I believed not, for I had never obſerved any ſuch ſymptom. This gave occaſion to baron Lutzow to remark, that ebriety is pretty much left off by the Germans; and to this purpoſe he mentioned a droll anſwer of a German prince to the late pope, who aſking him in a familiar converſation whether his countrymen continued to drink as hard as formerly; the prince made anſwer, that this beaſtly cuſtom was grown almoſt obſolete, except in the eccleſiaſtical electorates. Thus the evening paſſed away till the

the uſual time of withdrawing, when their highneſſes diſmiſſed the company.

The greater part of the day following I ſpent in taking a final ſurvey of this paradiſe, where the gardener being reckoned one of the moſt ſkilful in his profeſſion; I was glad to have ſome talk with him. I aſked him ſeveral queſtions on horticulture, and among other articles, we happened to fall upon the cultivation of fern, concerning which he gave me the following particulars.

This is a ſmall low vegetable*, with a multitude of ſprigs, growing to the length of a foot, or a foot and a half, hard and ligneous, and of a darkiſh or brown red colour; the leaves ſtiff and rough, not very different from the tamariſk and cypreſs, and like them, an ever-green. Its flowers are campanular, of a fine purple, and ſometimes white. At the bottom of the flowers, firſt appears a kind of bud, which afterwards becomes a fruit, nearly oval, containing the ſeeds, which are very ſmall, in four *capſulæ*; the root is woody, and ſerpentiſes in the ground. This plant grows on heaths and in woods, and is well known in pharmacy, having a potent medicinal virtue, from its being impregnated with a great deal of ſalt and oil. Farmers likewiſe place no ſmall value on it, from the ſeveral uſes to

* In Latin it is called *erica*.

which

which it is ſubſervient. 1ſt, From thoſe flowers, in countries where it grows in great plenty, the induſtrious bee extracts a rich delicious honey*. 2dly, In the want of ſtraw, fern makes very good litter for cattle, and the dung of it is even fatter than that of ſtraw. 3dly, It is good for barren ſand hills, binding them by the convolutions of its roots ſo that the ſand is kept from being diſperſed, to the detriment of the neighbouring grounds. 4thly, The twigs of it, when young, are wholeſome and palatable; and as it both ſhades and binds the ſand, other vegetables grow up under it; ſo that they contribute to make good ſheep walks. 5thly, It is ſown among all kinds of ligneous ſets, as it protects from the cold air and froſt, ſuch as ſhoot under them, and are not of ſo quick a growth. The ſeed is gathered towards the end of November, and ſown in the ſpring only upon ſand; and in theſe circumſtances it ſhoots up very faſt.

I thanked the good gardener for this account of the uſes of ſo common a plant; and having heard that he is famous for the art of watering gardens, I begged he would favour me with his obſervations on that head,

* The ancients diſtinguiſhed it by the name of *mel ericeum*; and Pliny takes notice of it in his Natural Hiſtory.

preſuming

preſuming that, as you are fond of gardening, you will be pleaſed to hear ſomething on the ſubject from this part of the world. He complied with my requeſt, and the remarks he made are theſe: 1ſt, Lake, rain, and river water, are certainly the fitteſt for this purpoſe; but where theſe are not to be had, well water muſt ſerve. This, inſtead of being uſed cold, as it comes out of the well, muſt ſtand ſome hours in the ſun, to mellow it, and abate the chilneſs. 2dly, If the garden be joined to the houſe, let the rain water be ſaved, by means of a ſpout, or ſpouts, in proper places, diſcharging themſelves into large receptacles; and theſe, when full, may be emptied into veſſels placed near them. 3dly, Dung water ſerves beſt for watering trees newly ſet, and ſuch vegetables as are not much ſubject to be preyed on by earth-fleas, (for theſe, after ſuch watering, multiply amazingly) as roſemary, pinks, pumpkins, cucumbers, jonquils, and gilliflowers; eſpecially when the latter are come to ſome growth. On this account many floriſts make an artificial dung-lye-water; putting into a tub ſheeps-treddles with water; and, after ſhaking and ſtirring it thoroughly, leave it a while in the ſun. As to what ſome ſay of theſe waters improving the colours, and making flowers ſtreaked, he ſays it never anſwered with him. 4thly, The plentiful watering of cole plants every day, is the only ſure method

againſt the earth-flea; only this muſt be forborne in the evening, when a frofty night is apprehended. 5thly, In night-frofts, by which cabbage plants have ſometimes ſuffered in May, after being covered with buſhes to ſecure them both from the fowls and the froſt, (here he ſuppoſes the ground not to be well dunged) the ſureſt way for preſerving them, is to water them a little at ſun-riſing. At firſt indeed they look as if candied, and bend ſtill more under the ice; but this being ſoon thawed off by the aſcending ſun, they gradually lift their heads, and recover. 6thly, At the end of May, or the beginning of June, the porraceous, and ſellery plants, will be greatly benefited by plentiful waterings every day, even in the hotteſt ſunſhine. 7thly, In tranſplanting all cabbage-lettuce, porraceous, and ſellery plants, and all ſummer vegetables, the beſt way is to make a hole with a dibble, or the hand-hoe, pouring water into it, and not on the plant itſelf, the latter being rather detrimental; but cole, and gillyflowers, and eſpecially white-cabbage, and cauliflowers, for preventing the earth-flies, muſt, in a drought, be plentifully watered, beſides filling the hole with water. 8thly, If any thing has been ſowed in a continued drought, without waiting for the rain, ſo that the ſeed is in danger of being ſpoiled, which ſometimes happens to the carrot, ſown at Whiſuntide,

Whitſuntide, and to the turnip and winter cabbage, ſown about St. James's day, the beſt way for cheriſhing it is to water the ground plentifully, and cover it with green buſhes; and, when you have repeated this watering once a day, and the plants have ſhot up, you may throw aſide the buſhes, and leave the plants to nature for their farther deſtiny. 9thly. In tranſplanting ſummer-vegetables, as likewiſe in ſetting of roſemary, jonquils, and gilliflowers, which require ſo much watering, it is farther neceſſary to put before every plant, ſouthwards, for the ſpace of ten days or a fortnight, a piece of board, or pipe-ſtave, as a fence againſt the exceſſive heat of the ſun, which, with all your diligent watering, would ruin your plants. 10thly. It will greatly benefit the tranſplanted cabbage-lettuce, to water it in the very heat of the day, directly in the middle of the plant, as cauſing it quickly to cabbage. In the month of Auguſt this method will not anſwer, by reaſon that from the exceſſive heat, the plant is haſtily running into ſeed; but in September it may be reſumed. 11thly. In a great drought, and eſpecially if the ground be any thing ſandy, carrots ſometimes are ſeen to decay, when in a very promiſing ſtate, ſo that they turn brown: the beſt way for reviving them is to water them towards evening. 12thly. If after a bed is ſown, and eſpecially in a ſtiff and clayey ground, a violent rain ſhould come

on, and the parching heat of the ſun as it were incruſtate it, before the ſeed is ſprung up, it muſt be gently watered every evening till the appearance of the plant. This is far better than raking it, which tears up great numbers of ſeeds that are already ſet. 13thly. As in a continuance of drought, graſs and weeds ſoon cover both the paths and beds in a garden, and the ſervants, to avoid the weeding-hook and ſpade, plead the hardneſs of the path, and the difficulty of pulling up the weeds, the beſt way to obviate theſe excuſes is gently to water both the paths and beds: thus, within an hour or two, no objection can be made againſt the work, and it will go on very ſpeedily. 14thly. Watering is the more neceſſary in thoſe gardens which lye on a ſlope, as more of the rain-water runs off than is imbibed; in thoſe alſo of a ſouthern expoſure; likewiſe in thoſe which in a long drought are not ſheltered by any ſtandards; and farther, if the ſoil be quite dry to the depth of an inch or two. 15thly, For ſuch trees as give bloſſoms, but without their improving into fruit; it is accounted a good way, in their bloſſoming-time, to dig a little trench round them, and every day, or every other day, to pour into it half a pail of water, till their bloſſoms are ſet. He ſays he never loſt a ſingle tree by this way, though it is commonly thought to be hurtful to them. It is eſpecially of great ſervice to garden-

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hips, and roſe-apples. 16thly, Watering is of ſervice to all tranſplanted ſeminal vegetables, at the time of their bloſſoming, particularly in a drought. 17thly, That in cool, or cold weather, or when the earth is ſtill ſufficiently moiſt, watering muſt be let alone, ſpeaks of itſelf; otherwiſe cole will be brown and blue, and the other vegetables yellow, and the growth of them checked, as we ſee happens in violent and long rains.

When he had finiſhed theſe obſervations, it was almoſt the hour of dinner; and as I was going to return him thanks, he told me there was yet time enough to add a word or two concerning ranunculuſes. Then, without giving me time to reply, "It is a ſtrange rule, ſaid he, among many floriſts, that ranunculuſes are to be watered only till they begin to ſhoot a ſtalk. I know by repeated experience, that they can bear a great deal of moiſture; and that if the ſtalk, after beginning to ſhoot, be not watered, ſhould June prove hot and dry, it will periſh before it flowers; nay, that the bulb ſet in a looſe earth in the uſual manner, will ſink like many bulbous roots, which have not been ſet deep enough; that is, will ſtrike its root an inch deeper, and at the end of it there will be a new, but a very ſmall and ſickly bulb. Now this inconveniency may be prevented, partly by careful watering, and likewiſe about the beginning of April, inſtead of

ſticking every bulb into looſe earth with a dibble, which is the common method, make a little hole four inches deep, ſtamp the bottom of it hard, and line it with ſome lime. (Others, which anſwers very well, put a piece of tile at the bottom.) This hole is to be filled an inch deep with common ſand, and place the ranunculus bulbs at a proper diſtance; fill the remainder looſely with a mixture of coarſe ſand and mould; then gently water the ranunculuſes, and continue this from time to time, till their flowering ſeaſon is over."

No ſooner had he concluded this diſſertation, than the ſprightly trumpet gave the ſignal of approaching dinner. I thanked the good gardener for his kind information, and bethought myſelf, at the ſame time, of the old proverb, *ſæpe etiam eſt olitor valde opportuna locutus.* During dinner, their highneſſes aſked me, as uſual, how I had amuſed myſelf in the forenoon; and I gave them an account of what had paſſed in the garden. They were exceedingly well pleaſed that I could divert myſelf in this ſolitude, as they called it; and hoped I ſhould find a variety of new ſcenes to occupy me for ſome time. But as I had now fully ſatisfied my curioſity, and rude winter's approach was continually in my mind, I ſignified to their highneſſes, that I intended to return to Schwerin the day following. My reaſons were ſo very cogent, that, notwithſtanding the deſire they had

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to protract my ſtay, they acquieſced in my reſolution. The duke told me, that, ſince I muſt depart, he would order his coach to carry me to Schwerin, whenever I thought proper. The diſcourſe then was changed, and I happened to talk of the medals, which had been lately dug up in the neighbourhood of Malchow, and purchaſed, as I mentioned to you in a former letter, by my good friend M. Piſtorius. The duke ſaid he had been apprized of the affair, and was very much diſpleaſed the medals had not been brought to him, being a regality due to the ſovereign; but, as they had fallen into ſuch good hands as thoſe of the learned and ingenious ſyndic, he had forborne taking any meaſures for the recovery of them. After dinner, their highneſſes propoſed an airing, the duke in his chaiſe, and the ducheſs, with her ladies, on horſeback. They were well mounted, with their cocked hats, bag-wigs, and feathers; but what heightened the ſcene was, that the ducheſs and her ladies rode ſtraddling, a ſight which ſurpriſed me very much, merely becauſe it was new; and novelty, you know, is the mother of ſurprize.

The duke and ducheſs were no ſooner gone, than baron Lutzow, and I, went to ſee the drawings and prints, at M. Findorff's, the duke's engraver, where we amuſed ourſelves a conſiderable part of the evening. From

thence we adjourned to my apartment, and converſed on various ſubjects till ſupper-time. The baron told me, that he and his lady intended to ſet out, in a day or two, for Schwerin; and as baron Zulow would alſo be there, he hoped they ſhould have it in their power to make me paſs away the time more agreeably than I had done at Ludewigs-Luſt. It is impoſſible for words to paint the politeneſs and affability of thoſe noblemen. They often expreſſed their apprehenſions, that the time would hang heavy upon my hands for want of public diverſions. In vain did I endeavour to perſuade them, that thoſe diverſions were no longer my taſte; and that the honour of converſing with perſons of their rank and abilities was a higher ſatisfaction to me, which it really was, than all the concerts, or aſſemblies in Europe; ſtill they imagined I ſpoke out of complaiſance, and that a ſtranger muſt inevitably fall into an *ennui* (a word they often repeated to me) unleſs buoyed up with ſcenes of ſplendor and tumultuous feſtivity. We went to ſupper at the uſual time; and in the courſe of converſation the duke promiſed to order his painter, M. Matthieu, to draw the portraits of the princes of the line of Schwerin, according to my deſire, for the ſecond volume of my Vandalia; and as the deſign of the caſtle of Ludewigs-Luſt was not yet finiſhed by M. Findorff, he ſaid he would ſend it in a few days

days after me to Schwerin. We ſtood chatting ſome time after ſupper, when I took my leave of their highneſſes, expreſſing the profound ſenſe I retained, and ſhould ever retain, of their great goodneſs; and they graciouſly wiſhed me a proſperous journey. The ducheſs, as ſhe withdrew, ſmiled, and ſaid, I will make uſe of the ſame terms to you as mademoiſelle Rauchbar did at Strelitz, viz. *Kommen ſie bald wieder*, that is, make haſte back again. After their highneſſes had withdrawn, I paid my compliments to the noblemen and ladies, and retired to my apartment. I had not been there above a few minutes, when baron Lutzow came in, and told me, he was ſent by the duke to make me a few preſents at my departure, as a teſtimony of the regard his highneſs had for me, and the ſatisfaction he had received from my viſit. Theſe were, a gold medal of the late duke his father, in an agate ſnuff-box ſet in gold; and an agate watch, with a handſome gold chain. On the face of the medal is this inſcription, *Chriſt. Ludovic. D. G. Dux Mecklenburg.* On the reverſe are the inſignia of the orders of the elephant and St. Andrew, with the arms of Mecklenburg crowned, dated 1753. The legend, *Per anguſta ad auguſta*. The agates were dug out of the mountains of Mecklenburg, a circumſtance the duke apprehended would be the more agreeable to me

me, as being the produce of a country, for which I had teſtified ſo much regard. I received thoſe princely gifts with ſuitable expreſſions of gratitude for the honour done me, and deſired the baron to preſent my acknowledgments to his highneſs: at the ſame time I paid all due compliments to that nobleman for his civility. After he was gone, I prepared to undreſs, when a droll ſcene happened, which ſurprized me at firſt, and afterwards contributed to my diverſion. A tall ruſtic fellow bolted into my room very abruptly; and, without ſaying by your leave, or aſking me the leaſt queſtion, looked up the chimney. I deſired to know what he wanted; but he made no other anſwer than that he was about his buſineſs. Preſently he went to the door, and called in another fellow, dirtier and blacker than himſelf, whom I gueſſed to be a chimney-ſweeper. I then aſked him, if that were not the caſe; he ſaid it was, and that he muſt inſtantly ſweep the chimney. I thought it a very odd time for ſuch a buſineſs, and was for having it deferred till the next day, when I ſhould be gone to Schwerin. The fellow replied very bluntly, he could not put it off on any account; and that the duke had commanded it, for fear of fire, which happened ſo often in their country. All I could ſay was ſpeaking to the poſt; and I was obliged

liged to acquieſce. I therefore walked very coolly about the room till the affair was over, when the fellow went away without ſaying a word; then I locked and double-bolted the door after him, laughing at the whimſicalneſs of the adventure.

This morning I roſe pretty early, and breakfaſted with baron Lutzow, to whom I told the ſullen intruſion of the chimney-ſweeper. He laughed exceſſively, but at the ſame time made an apology for the rudeneſs and ignorance of the fellow. I ſhall ſet off to-day for Schwerin, at noon, in the duke's coach, in company with M. Wickenſtock, a ſurgeon belonging to the houſhold. Baron Pentze, one of the gentlemen of the bedchamber, came a while ago to tell me, that the duke and duchеſs once more wiſhed me a good journey, and deſired I would take ſome refreſhment in my apartment before I ſet out. I deſired the baron would repeat my moſt humble acknowledgments for all their highneſſes' favours, and am now going to ſit down to dinner. The weather is ſtill fine over head, but every day more cold; ſo that I ſhall be glad when I get back to England. But I muſt ſtay ſome days, according to my promiſe, at Schwerin: this will bring in winter, an uncomfortable ſeaſon for travelling through Weſtphalia. I have been enervated, I own, by the gra-

gratifications heaped on me at the court of Strelitz; ſo that I almoſt ſhudder at the rigours of a winter's journey. But why do I torment myſelf or you, my dear friend, with the apprehenſion of diſtant dangers? Is it not far better to enjoy the preſent moment, and leave futurity to Providence? Have I not age and experience ſufficient to know

The ſtrange viciſſitudes of human fate,
Still altering, never in a ſteady ſtate:
Good after ill, and after pain delight,
Alternate, like the ſcenes of day and night.
Since every man who lives is born to die,
And none can boaſt ſincere felicity;
With equal mind what happens let us bear,
Not joy nor grieve too much, for things beyond our care:
Like pilgrims, to th' appointed place we tend,
The world's an inn, and death the journey's end:
Ev'n kings but play, and when their part is done,
Some other, worſe or better, mount the throne. DRYDEN.

Away then with all gloomy apprehenſions: I ſhall endeavour henceforward to chear my mind with gay ideas, to gild the toils of life with pleaſing hopes, and to

Thank

Thank the gracious gods for what they give,
Poſſeſs my mind, and whilſt I live, to live.

I know you will laugh at this rhapſody; however, it is an amuſement to me, and my ſcheme in travelling is to amuſe myſelf as much as I can.

Each day's a miſtreſs unenjoy'd before,
Like travellers, we're pleas'd with ſeeing more.

Adieu, my dear friend, believe me it is no rhapſody when I aſſure you that I pleaſe myſelf with the hopes of ſeeing you again in London; and of reviving thoſe ſcenes of ſocial converſe, which I may juſtly rank among the moſt refined pleaſures that can be enjoyed by,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

LETTER XX.

Schwerin, November 28, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I Concluded my laſt in a moralizing ſtrain, juſt as I was going to dinner. A very odd time, you will ſay, when I had ſuch important buſineſs on my hands. The truth is, Ludewigs-Luſt is ſo retired and ſolemn a place, that it naturally leads one to a train of meditation. The greater part of the time I was there, I found myſelf in a kind of reverie, and had often in my mind theſe ſoothing lines of Guarini:

Care ſelve beate
E voi ſolinghe e taciturni orrori,
Di ripoſo e di pace alberghi veri.

But the ſcene is altered; I have been in ſuch a continual hurry and diſſipation ever ſince, that I have ſcarce had time to think, much leſs to contemplate.

I ſet out from Ludewigs-Luſt the 21ſt inſtant, at noon, with M. Wickenſtock, the ſurgeon. He

is a native of Pruſſia, and a pleaſant companion. The road, at firſt, was over a heath, and on our left Ludewigs-luſt park, which extends this way a German mile and a half. We ſoon got to the great foreſt of Lewitz, which reaches as far as the town of Criwitz. After we had paſſed through a ſmall village, we arrived, about two o'clock, at a public houſe, called Oer Kruck, half way to Schwerin. Here my companion propoſed to alight, in order to empty a bottle of Burgundy, which baron Pentze had ordered to be put into the coach for our refreſhment. The wine infuſed freſh ſpirits into my friend, when he amuſed me with ſeveral droll ſtories: among others, he mentioned the ſimplicity of an old woman in the electorate of Hanover; whoſe daughter having been got with child in the late war by a Frenchman, the greateſt concern the mother ſeemed to be under was, that the child, being the offspring of a Frenchman, would not underſtand German. We got into the coach again at three, and paſſing through a fine corn country, with a view of Criwitz on the left, we arrived at length at the wood which reaches to Schwerin. From thence we came to the place called the Star, remarkable for a number of openings, which afford ſo many fine viſtas or proſpects, and by five o'clock we reached our journey's end. The coachman drove us to my

quarters

quarters in the Marquiſe's houſe, where my companion took his leave of me. I had been ſcarce ſat down, when the court-harbinger, who had been ſeveral times to enquire whether I was arrived, came to invite me to ſupper. I went at nine o'clock, and prince Lewis and the princeſſes welcomed me to Schwerin. I ſat next to princeſs Ulrica, at her highneſs's deſire, that ſhe might have the better opportunity of converſing with me in Engliſh. The converſation turned chiefly upon what I had ſeen and obſerved during my ſtay at Ludewigs-Luſt, and their highneſſes ſeemed greatly pleaſed with the recital of my ſeveral excurſions. About eleven, the company broke up, and I retired to my lodging, which is very near the palace. M. Lutzow, the ſon of the marſhal of the court, ſaw me home, attended by a ſervant with a lanthorn fixed to a long pole, a conveniency I remember to have ſeen at Hamburg.

The next morning after breakfaſt the court-harbinger came to invite me to dinner; and this has been conſtantly the practice ſince my being in Schwerin. I waited ſoon after on prince Lewis, to deſire admittance to the archives; in order to ſearch for ſuch records or papers as might be of any uſe to my hiſtory. The prince told me that department belonged to M. Schmidt, the privy-counſellor; and he would ſend

baron

baron Drisberg, with me to that gentleman, who he was ſure would give me all the aſſiſtance and lights I could deſire. Accordingly the baron and I went in the prince's coach, to wait upon M. Schmidt, who received us with all the politeneſs imaginable. Unluckily he happened to be ill of a ſlow fever, otherwiſe he would have accompanied me himſelf to the archives. He is a gentleman of a middling ſtature, inclinable to corpulency, of a dark complexion, but a very amiable countenance. He was once profeſſor of law in the univerſity of Roſtock, and has been raiſed by his merit to his preſent high ſtation. His ſhare in the regency is very conſiderable, from his great experience and knowledge; no man being better verſed than himſelf, in the hiſtory and laws of his country. Count Baſſewitz, the chief miniſter, has the higheſt regard and affection for him, and theſe two act in every thing with the greateſt harmony. I am ſorry count Baſſewitz happens to be at Hamburg; but I am told he is daily expected, ſo that poſſibly I ſhall have the pleaſure of ſeeing that nobleman, before my departure. But to return to M. Schmidt, upon aſking him what was the oldeſt document they had in the archives? he told me there was none more ancient than that of the foundation of the church of Schwerin, by Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony and Bavaria, in the year 1170. As he

was indiſpoſed, I took leave of him very ſoon, and he ſent his ſervant with me to the archives, directing the principal officer to ſhew me every thing I wanted.

The archives are kept in the caſtle, on the ground floor, left hand, after you paſs the chapel. I was received with great complaiſance by the archivarius, who ſhewed me the ſeveral rooms, where the public records are diſpoſed in excellent order. He told me that I was welcome to ſee any book, paper, or document, I pleaſed; and that if I deſired any thing to be tranſcribed, the clerks ſhould do it for me. I returned him many thanks, and told him, that I wanted only to ſee ſuch documents and MS. as related to the hiſtory of Mecklenburg. Upon this he began with telling me, that their moſt ancient document was, as M. Schmidt had mentioned, that of the foundation of the church of Schwerin. He then ordered one of the clerks to produce the record, which is well preſerved, and dated 1171. After this he ſhewed me ſeveral curioſities relating to the hiſtory of Mecklenburg; the principal of which are: 1ſt, The original MS. copy of Kirchberg's Hiſtory of Mecklenburg, beautifully illuminated, in 1378. 2. A large folio, containing the portraits of all the ſovereigns of the houſe of Mecklenburg, from Antyrius I. to Albert II. ſon of Magnus, married to Anne, Margravine of Brandenburg. 3.

A copy of Marſhal's Hiſtory of Mecklenburg, finely illuminated. 4. The original of Rixner's Hiſtory of Mecklenburg, with the coats of arms, 1530. 5. The original MS. of Latomus's Hiſtory of the Nobleſſe of Mecklenburg. 6. A MS. copy of Chemnitz's Hiſtory of Mecklenburg, in two very large volumes folio, from the earlieſt times to Sigiſmund Auguſtus, in 1623. This work was never printed; the dukes, (for what reaſon he could not tell me) do not chuſe it ſhould be publiſhed. Chemnitz's Hiſtory in M. Weſtphal is quite a different work. 7. A MS. diplomatarium of the dome of Guſtrow, in 1526. Such were the principal articles, and of theſe I could only take a curſory view at that time; but I have been there every day ſince, with liberty to tranſcribe whatever I think may be any way conducive to the improvement of my Hiſtory. The uſe I have made of this indulgence is conſiderable, and has amply recompenced me for my trouble.

I buſied myſelf here in literary reſearches, till I was called off by the trumpet's loud clangor, the uſual ſignal of dinner. The company this day was numerous, being about thirty covers. Beſides the prince and princeſſes, there were ſeveral ladies, Miſs Wurmb, Mademoiſelle Chambeaux, Madam de Lutzow, Madam de Zulow, and ſome others. The gentlemen were the ſame as I ſaw before, beſides baron Forſtener, baron Zulow, and baron Lutzow, who

was come from Ludewigs-Luſt that very morning. I gave you the preſent ſtate of the ducal family, in a former letter; and having now made ſome acquaintance with the moſt diſtinguiſhed perſons at court, I ſhall endeavour to draw a ſketch of their characters, beginning with the duke and ducheſs, whom I left at Ludewigs-Luſt.

Frederick II. duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, is a prince above the middle ſize, very well ſhaped, of a thin habit of body, and freſh complexion *. He has an oval face, pitted with the ſmall-pox, an open fore-head, black eyes, and the other features not irregular. His deportment is grave, his mien ſerene, being a real tranſcript of his mind. No prince is more eaſy of acceſs; or behaves to his inferiors with more politeneſs and good nature. His manners are ſo engaging, as ſeldom fail to conciliate the affection and reſpect of thoſe who have the honour to converſe with him. In his youth he viſited the principal courts in Europe, where he imbibed a ſuperior taſte of politeneſs and elegance. He ſpeaks ſeveral languages with eaſe and correctneſs, and delivers himſelf on moſt ſubjects with great clearneſs and ſolidity. He rides very well, and dances gracefully; but of late years has pretty much diſuſed both theſe exerciſes. His abilities, both

* As for the age of the princes and princeſſes of this family, ſee p. 291.

natural and acquired, are conſiderable. Few men have a more clear and quick comprehenſion, or a ſtronger and more lively imagination. His underſtanding has been enlarged by a diligent application to moſt branches of ſolid and uſeful learning: but his favourite ſtudy is natural philoſophy, and mechanics, in which he is really eminent. Nothing eſcapes his penetration, nor his memory, which is very retentive.

Of all princes, he is the leaſt fond of pomp and outward ſhow. Even in tranſacting buſineſs he affects no ſtate, but endeavours to remove, as much as poſſible, all conſtraint and formalities. He ſees very little company, except the ſtated times for buſineſs, when the meaneſt ſubject has acceſs. They who approach his perſon, allow him to be the moſt indulgent prince in the whole world, converſing with thoſe about him in terms of the moſt endearing condeſcenſion and decent familiarity. He knows that princely authority is ſupported by dignity of conduct, and not by haughtineſs of deportment; he knows that princes muſt ſometimes bring themſelves down to a level with their ſubjects, according to that beautiful maxim of Pliny, *Cui nihil ad augendum faſtigium ſupereſt, hoc uno modo creſcere poteſt, ſi ſeipſum ſubmittat, ſecurus magnitudinis ſuæ**.

The duke profeſſes the Lutheran religion, in which he is moſt ſincere and devout, yet with-

* Plin. in pan.

out the leaſt tincture of ſuperſtition, or bigotry. So far is he from being prieſt-ridden, that even the firſt of the clergy, however eminent for learning and piety, are not admitted to his table. He pays them due reſpect in their proper department, but does not ſuffer them to intermeddle in ſtate-affairs. His ſenſe of religion appears more particularly in his devout and conſtant attendance on divine ſervice; and in his extenſive and almoſt unbounded charity. Even his extravagancies, as ſome ſtile them, in gardening, are calculated for the benefit of the lower claſs of people, employing ſuch a number of hands. In the late war, when, upon the invaſion of the Pruſſians, he retired to Lubeck, being followed by a great number of his diſtreſſed ſubjects, he provided for their ſubſiſtence. His tenants who had been plundered by the enemy were forgiven their arrears of rent, and ſome he even indemnified for their loſſes. He has been heard to ſay, that it would be happy for mankind, if all ſovereigns, in ſome part of their life, experienced the preſſures of poverty; for he who has not been diſtreſſed himſelf, cannot ſo well ſympathize with the ſufferings of others.

His manner of life is pretty uniform. He breakfaſts a-bed, and riſes very late, viz. about eleven: he dreſſes and ſhaves himſelf, never wears a night-gown, but continues the

whole day in the cloaths he put on in the morning; and has ſeldom more than one ſuit in wear throughout the year, which is blue trimmed with gold. But while he avoids all foppery and extravagance, he takes care not to give into the other extreme, that ſordid parſimony, which debaſes the dignity of princes, and renders them odious and contemptible to their ſubjects. His highneſs walks every morning in his garden before dinner, attended only by a gentleman of the bed-chamber. Sometimes he takes the air in a chaiſe, driving at a prodigious rate. When there is no ſtrange company at Ludewigs-Luſt, he generally dines by himſelf; but the whole time I was there, he dined in public with the ducheſs. In his diet he is very temperate, ſeldom drinking but at meals, and then not quite a pint of wine. His only paſſion is for gardening, a paſſion innocent in its nature, and the favourite amuſement of ſome of the greateſt princes, both of ancient and modern times. In the afternoon he retires to his cabinet, where he does buſineſs with the miniſters of the reſpective departments, who come from Schwerin to attend his orders.

The care of government is his chief ſtudy, and to this he poſtpones every other conſideration. In the choice of his miniſters he is moſt circumſpect and judicious, employing none but ſuch as are of undoubted abilities and integrity. No prince has a greater regard

for learning, as appears very plainly by his preferring men of letters to conſiderable poſts, and by his ſettling ſuch liberal ſalaries on the profeſſors of his new univerſity of Butzow. He ſups by himſelf, and ſits up generally till between two and three in the morning. Theſe ſilent hours he dedicates partly to public buſineſs, and partly to the ſtudy of religion and philoſophy. He is never ſeen in an undreſs. He has no guards, but only a few invalids, who do duty before the palace. A prince, he ſays, ſhould behave to his people as a parent to his children; then he is ſure of their affection, which is his beſt ſecurity. Therefore, he deteſts that maxim, *oderint dum metuant*; for he whom many fear, muſt be afraid of many. The love of his ſubjects he values; but their fear would give him concern, as generally productive of hatred. His virtues are all of the ſolid kind; he is religious without fanaticiſm, gracious without meanneſs; frugal without parſimony; and generous without profuſion and extravagance. A good prince, he ſays, ſhould always have theſe maxims preſent to his mind, that he rules over men like himſelf; that he is to rule according to law; and that he is not to rule for ever, meaning, that he is to be accountable hereafter for his conduct. He ſhould therefore endeavour to ſet a pattern to his people, and to attract regard more by the purity of his life, than by the

luſtre

luſtre of his dignity. Accordingly, the manners of this good prince are moſt exemplary; ſuch as would adorn private life, as well as the higheſt ſtation. To conclude, if it be true, that he only is qualified to command others, who commands himſelf, this prince is abſolutely worthy of ſuperiority; and as he delights in the ſtudy and practice of wiſdom, his people ſurely muſt be happy, according to this maxim of Plato, that then indeed the world is bleſſed, when philoſophers are raiſed to government, or governors become philoſophers.

Louiſa Frederica, ducheſs of Mecklenburg Schwerin, is tall and genteel in her perſon, and freſh complexioned; her face is oval, her eyes azure, and every other feature extremely regular. Though paſt the bloom of youth, ſhe is ſtill poſſeſſed of perſonal charms, ſufficient to conciliate love and eſteem. In her phyſiognomy, there is a good deal of the caſt of the houſe of Brandenburg, from which her highneſs is deſcended, by her mother. Her aſpect is majeſtic, her deportment noble and grave, her addreſs quite eaſy and engaging. Few ladies have more politeneſs, better underſtanding, and greater dignity of ſentiment. She is not a little fond of magnificence, which ſhe elegantly adapts to occaſions; but her liberality is indeed very diffuſive. In converſation ſhe ſhews her judgment, talking little, but always to the purpoſe. The French lan-

guage

guage is quite familiar to her highneſs; ſhe has a fine air in dancing, and indeed excels in every other accompliſhment becoming her ſex. Though ſhe has a natural propenſity to gaiety and diverſions, ſhe ſhows her good ſenſe in conforming to the duke's temper, and ſpending her days, as it were, in retirement. Every day, except Sunday, ſhe rides out with her maids of honour, dreſſed, as I mentioned to you before, in Amazonian habits. This exerciſe keeps her in good health and ſpirits. By way of variety, ſhe paſſes three ſummer months at Hamburg, where ſhe frequents all the public diverſions. Here ſhe has purchaſed a fine palace, open to all foreigners of diſtinction; and lives with the ſplendor ſuitable to her birth and rank.

Prince Lewis, the duke's brother, is of a middling ſtature, well made, with a round face, regular features, and brown complexion. The goodneſs of his temper, and the generoſity of his diſpoſition, make thoſe about him happy. State and dignity he does not ſeem to affect, being as much an enemy to pride as the duke his brother. He is eaſy of acceſs, extremely polite, very charitable and humane, and ready to do kindneſſes to ſuch as are really deſerving. His inclination naturally leads him to parties of pleaſure, but not ſo as to commit any exceſs. His accompliſhments are ſuch as become his high rank.

rank. He dances and fits a horſe well, is fond of muſic, and, as I mentioned to you before, performs very well on the violin, having a concert twice a week in the palace. He is alſo a collector of coins and medals, and has a very fine cabinet of all ſorts, but eſpecially thoſe of his own country. In public affairs he does not ſeem to intermeddle, but lives content on his appanage, and in the greateſt harmony with the duke his brother. In ſhort, few princes can have a more amiable character, being an affectionate huſband, a fond parent, a loving brother, and a dutiful ſubject.

Princeſs Charlotte Sophia, his conſort, is middle ſized, very genteelly ſhaped, and of a noble air and deportment. Her face is oval, with a large forehead, black ſparkling eyes, and engaging countenance. Though at firſt ſhe appears grave, ſhe ſoon puts on a gracious ſmile, and converſes with all the eaſe and chearfulneſs imaginable. No princeſs can have more genteel accompliſhments; few make ſo fine a figure in dancing; and for ſinging, her voice and manner would be applauded in a public performance. Muſic indeed is her only amuſement, and as for every thing elſe, ſhe lives like one quite weaned from the world. She has a concert at home, but never plays at cards, and goes to no routs or aſſemblies. The

The education of the young princeſs, her daughter, takes up her thoughts, and prevents her from falling into the faſhionable mode of killing the time with cards and dancing. In ſhort, ſhe lives retired in the midſt of the court, occupied in fulfilling the duties of her ſtation, and in works of piety and charity, ſo that her life may be ſaid to be one continued courſe of virtue.

You may remember that this happy pair have two children, a prince and princeſs. The young prince Frederic Francis, I have not ſeen, being lately gone to his ſtudies at Lauſanne; he is ſaid to be one of the handſomeſt young princes in Germany, and of a moſt promiſing diſpoſition *. His ſiſter, Sophia Frederica, is one of the ſweeteſt and moſt beautiful young princeſſes I ever beheld. Her ſhape is delicate and fine; ſhe already dances with a good grace, and ſpeaks French very prettily. Good humour and good diſpoſitions may be ſeen in her countenance. Upon the whole, ſhe promiſes fair to be one of the moſt accompliſhed princeſſes in Europe.

Princeſs Ulrica, the Duke's elder ſiſter, is ballanced by her dignity of aſpect, and ſublimity of ſentiment. Her face is perfectly round,

* He has been lately inoculated, at Lauſanne, for the ſmall-pox, of which he happily recovered.

her

her forehead large, her eye-brows auburn, her eyes cærulean, her other features regular and pleaſing, with a moſt delicate fair complexion. In her younger days ſhe muſt have been a perfect beauty, and even at preſent her charms are ſcarce on the decline. Her highneſs, I am told, was intended for the late king of Denmark; but by ſome accident the match went off. Her mien, her carriage, her air, are noble and engaging, ſuch as inſpire, at the ſame time, reverence and affection. She underſtands the Italian tongue, and ſpeaks French with facility and elegance. She applies herſelf alſo to the Engliſh language, in which ſhe has already made a conſiderable progreſs. The charms of her mind are not inferior to thoſe of her perſon. Poſſeſſed of a lively imagination, ſhe has withal a juſt diſcernment and knowledge of the world. It is impoſſible to excel her in ſweetneſs of temper and ſimplicity of manners; the only laſting charms of the fair ſex. There is a conſtant ſmile on her lips, which prefaces her talk; and this, however ſenſible, is only a repetition of what has been expreſſed by her countenance. Diſengaged from all trifles, ſhe is fond of reading good books, and of converſing with men of learning, who have ſeen the world. She aſſumes no ſtate on account of her rank, but talks to thoſe who are about her as equals. It is impoſſible, indeed, to expreſs the affability of her

her behaviour, none but those who have seen and conversed with her, can have a true idea of it. Yet there is a dignity in her looks that commands respect, even from those whom she treats with familiarity. She is generous and magnificent, and has a noble heart, becoming her high birth. Indeed there are few princesses of a more sublime and more elegant turn of mind. In piety and religion she may justly be called the pattern of her sex, being most punctual in her attendance on divine service, most exemplary in her devotion, and most sincere in the discharge of every christian duty. Yet her piety is no way disfigured by a melancholy gloom, or austerity of aspect; but the rays of chearfulness and composure pierce through her devotions. Her charity, her humanity, almost exceed the bounds of her fortune, which is very considerable, having had a most liberal appanage settled on her by the late duke, her father. She lends the most gracious ear to those who ask any favours of her, and is sure to answer them in the kindest and most obliging manner. She wishes it were in her power to serve all who apply to her for assistance, and is under the greatest concern when she finds herself unable to comply with their request. I have been told, that she has often shed tears, in hearing of the distresses of particular objects, when her finances were exhausted

by

by repeated charities, and it was no longer in her power to relieve them. So great, ſo good, ſo amiable a princeſs may ſurely be ſtiled the *delight of human kind*, ſtudying to do good not leſs than the celebrated prince who firſt obtained that glorious title.

Princeſs Amelia, the duke's younger ſiſter, has been ſo very ill ever ſince my being at this court, that I have not had the honour of paying my reſpects to her highneſs. Her indiſpoſition is ſaid to be of a very dangerous nature, a diſorder in her bowels, which keeps her in excruciating pains, and confines her moſtly to her bed. Her general character is very amiable, behaving with patience and conſtancy under her infirmities, and with generoſity and good-nature to all her attendants.

Baron Zulow, the great cup-bearer, is tall and genteel in his perſon, and of very regular features. His aſpect is ſweet and engaging, his deportment becoming the man of quality. Few noblemen have more amiable accompliſhments. He ſpeaks French with great eaſe, and expreſſes himſelf on moſt ſubjects with juſtneſs and propriety. He may be truly ſtiled a pattern of good breeding; ſuch affability, ſuch good temper, ſuch readineſs to oblige, and ſo much good ſenſe, ſeldom meet in the ſame perſon. He is deſcended from one of the nobleſt families in this country. His father was major-general

Zulow,

Zulow, colonel of a regiment of foot, and commandant of Schwerin. He died the first of April, 1756, after having served the duke, his sovereign, fifty-three years. The present baron seems to be about three or four and thirty, and married, not long ago, a widow lady, of the family of Molcke, with whom he had a considerable fortune. Madam de Zulow is a tall handsome lady, very sensible, and possessed of every genteel accomplishment.

Baron Lutzow is of a middling stature, a very handsome face, fair complexion, strong built, and inclinable to corpulency. He seems not to be forty; but his experience, good sense, and knowledge, are superior to his years. He is generous, frank, and open, and of a most chearful disposition. With all the vivacity and fire of youth, he has the solidity and consideration of maturer age. His politeness, his graceful dignity, his attention to decorum, shew his knowledge of the world. Few noblemen have so well improved their time; he is master of several languages, has read the best books on the law of nations and politics, is perfectly well versed in history, and most branches of polite learning. No wonder so accomplished a person has been so often employed by his prince in negotiations, in which he has acquitted himself with honour. Lutzow has been in a public character, at several

several courts of Germany, as well as in Denmark and Russia, at which last court he made a considerable figure. He is but lately returned, as I mentioned to you before, from executing a commission to their Danish majesties, at Altena. Not long ago, he married the daughter of baron Drieberg, a most agreeable young lady, who seems formed to complete his happiness. She is about five and twenty, of a middle size, round face, fresh complexion, auburn hair, most regular features, and extremely well shaped. Her accomplishments, good sense, good breeding, and good-nature, would adorn the highest station. In short, her person is an assemblage of charms, and she may be truly stiled one of the greatest ornaments of the court of Schwerin.

Miss Wurmb, maid of honour to princess Charlotte, and concerned in the education of the young princess Sophia, is a native of Saxony, and of a very illustrious descent. She is tall and genteel in her person, round faced, and of a brown complexion. Though she cannot be called a beauty, she is possessed of charms far surpassing those of outward form. Few ladies have a better share of understanding, and none can have more temper and good humour. She is affability itself, ever cheerful, ever complacent, with a perpetual smile on her coun-

tenance. She ſings and dances with a good grace, and plays very well on the harpſichord: but her amuſements conſiſt chiefly in reading, and in adorning her mind with refined knowledge. She ſpeaks both French and Italian, and is now learning Engliſh along with princeſs Ulrica, who ſeems to be very fond of this young lady; and, on the other hand, Miſs Wurmb's chief ambition is to anſwer the affection of ſo good a princeſs.

The count de Flohr is gentleman to princeſs Ulrica. He is of a moſt elegant form, tall and well ſhaped, an oval face, black lively eyes, Roman noſe, and dark complexion. His aſpect, his air, his deportment, all correſpond with the dignity of his birth. He is perfectly well verſed in the forms and ceremonies of courts, having ſerved ſeveral German princes before he came hither, and among the reſt the duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz. By birth he is a Saxon, and was ſome time at Copenhagen, where his uncle, general Pretorius, reſided. There he had the misfortune of being a conſiderable ſufferer by the knavery of a Jew, whom he had intruſted with great part of his fortune. In politeneſs and good breeding it is impoſſible to excel him. But he is not only the fine gentleman; he is alſo the man of ſenſe,

and

the scholar, and the philosopher. With such amiable qualities he must of course conciliate the esteem and respect of all his acquaintance.

Baron Forstner, steward of the household, is a native of Wurtemberg, and was invited hither by the duchess, who is a princess of that family. He is a tall stout man, fresh complexioned, oval face, and dark complexion; but he is a little hard-featured, and pitted with the small-pox. He is of a gay open disposition, polite, generous, and magnificent, keeps a very good table, and is glad to see his friends with true German liberality. He has no sort of pride, loves pleasure and good cheer, but not so as to neglect business. He is a man of good parts, and a very sound lawyer; for which reason he is generally employed as one of the duke's commissioners at the provincial diet, from whence he is but just returned. In his several functions, he gives great satisfaction; so that he is beloved and unenvied, though a favourite of the sovereign.

There are many other amiable persons of both sexes at this court, but I have not sufficient time to delineate their several characters. Neither, indeed, have I had leisure and opportunity to make such acquaintance with so illustrious a group, as would enable me to sketch, much less to finish, all their portraits. For it is not with me here as at Strelitz, where I visited,

and was perſonally acquainted with every body of any rank: this is a much larger field; and my ſtay has been too ſhort to form a gallery of paintings; beſides, moſt of my time, both here and at Ludewigs-Luſt, has been ſpent in converſing with their ſerene highneſſes. I ſhall now finiſh this long digreſſion, and return to the ſcene of my dining at court, which was on Saturday the 22d inſtant.

The converſation chiefly conſiſted in inquiries after my rambles about Ludewigs-Luſt, and my opinion of the beauties of that delicious place. The account I gave was ſuch as gave them pleaſure, for no people in the world ſeem to take a greater delight in conſulting a ſtranger's amuſement. After dinner princeſs Ulrica ordered her coach to carry me to a fine deer park, called the Werder, in the neighbourhood of this city, and deſired the marſhal of the court, baron Lutzow, to accompany me. The Werder is not above three miles diſtant from hence; it is properly an iſland, joined to the main-land by a wooden-bridge. It is certainly a moſt delightful park, well ſtocked with all ſorts of game. There is an eminence in the middle, with a gentle aſcent; and on the top, a very good houſe, from whence I had a delightful proſpect of all the fine country around, and of the lake of Schwerin. Over-againſt this is another park, called the *Kaninchen Werder**,

der*, in an island on the Schwerin lake, to which the garrison of Schwerin retired upon the approach of the Prussians, in the late war. There they maintained themselves against the enemy, till the latter evacuated the country. We drove round the park, and came to a precipice on the banks of the lake, twenty-four feet high, from whence one of the duke's pages jumped down, not long ago, out of a frolick, as the marshal assured me, without receiving any hurt. Night approaching, we returned to Schwerin. I then paid a visit to baron Zulow, and chatted with him a good part of the evening. From thence we adjourned to court, and found the prince and princess going to supper. The company were very merry; princess Ulrica talked now and then a little English, and after supper we withdrew to her highness's appartment. There she shewed me a number of English prints, and among the rest that of Mr. Garrick, in the character of Richard III. The fame of this celebrated actor has reached this part of the world, and her highness often speaks of him as an extraordinary genius.

By what I can find, they would be glad to have a theatre in Schwerin; but the duke, for

* That is, the *rabbit Island*, *Werder* properly signifying an island in a river.

the reasons already mentioned, does not tolerate such entertainments. Neither are there any public assemblies in the castle; but they play at cards now and then in private. Prince Lewis has a concert twice a week, Thursdays and Saturdays, in his own apartment, and the noblesse have alternately assemblies at their houses two or three times a week. The prince and princesses go to these assemblies, where the only diversion is card-playing, much in the same nature as at our drums and routs; they neither eat nor drink the whole time, and at nine the company retires. Most of the noblesse keep coaches, and never walk out without a servant. There are no hackney coaches, but chairs, which will carry you to any part of the town for six-pence. There are three or four coffee-houses for the burghers, and one for the noblesse; for these two orders never intermix. It is surprising with what a high hand the nobility carry it in this country; they will scarce converse with a commoner, except upon business, and seem to look on plebeians as a different species. Hence it is, that they have so great a contempt for trade, and the mechanic arts, and would rather starve, than degrade themselves, as they call it, by any such profession. Physic, however, and the law are in some little

eſteem among them, eſpecially the latter; and a plain proof of it is the great number of lawyers at Schwerin, many of whom make handſome fortunes; yet none of the nobility bring up their children to that profeſſion. Thoſe of ſmall fortunes ſeek employments either at court or in the army; from which the burghers ſeem to be abſolutely excluded.

Thus you ſee, that Schwerin affords but little entertainment to thoſe who are fond of gaiety and pleaſure. But as this is not my aim, I paſs my time very agreeably, in converſing now with the learned, and now with the ladies and gentlemen at court. I breakfaſt always at my inn, from thence I go to the archives, then wait upon princeſs Ulrica, where I hear her read ſome Engliſh book, and diſcourſe with her a little in our language. I dine at court, the afternoon I make viſits, and ſpend the evening at the caſtle. This affords me ſufficient amuſement, and I do not regret the want of more faſhionable diverſions.

I was invited a day or two ago by the marſhal of the court to go with him to the coffee-houſe frequented by the nobleſſe, in order to ſee their manner of ſpending the evening. It ſtands almoſt in the middle of the town, and the rooms for company are on the firſt floor. We went up ſtairs, and found a good many gentlemen, chiefly officers, moſt of whom I had ſeen at

court. There were two pretty large rooms, well illuminated; and in the largeſt of the two was a billiard table, as in moſt German coffee-houſes. None but the nobleſſe are admitted into this houſe; as for the burghers, *procul eſte profani*. Part of the company were playing at billiards, others ſmoking their pipes, others drinking punch and wine; and in the leſſer room were two card-tables, with company playing. Every one calls for what he pleaſes, and is well ſerved. I converſed a while with ſome of the company, then read the news-papers, which amuſed the time till nine o'clock. The marſhal's ſon, a very pretty young gentleman, who was bred at Vienna, propoſed going with me to court; his father, on account of his age, always ſupping at home. After we had ſat down to table, princeſs Ulrica happened to aſk me, how I came to write the hiſtory of her country? and when I had ſatisfied her highneſs, ſhe told me, that her deſires were now fulfilled, for that ſhe had often wiſhed, from the firſt time of ſeeing my hiſtory, that the author would come and pay a viſit to Mecklenburg. Upon our adjourning as uſual to her apartment, ſhe ſhewed me an Engliſh letter written that day by way of exerciſe, and I was ſurpriſed at her progreſs. Her highneſs intends to get an Engliſh bible, which

I re-

I recommended to her as a good way of
quiring a variety of words. Miss Wurmb
so shewed me an English letter of her inditi
but it was much inferior to that of prin
Ulrica.

The next morning baron Zulow called
me in his coach, to take me with him to co
sellor Schmidt's, whose indisposition was so
thing abated. The counsellor received
with great regard, and made us stay to bre
fast. The conversation turned chiefly on
affairs of Mecklenburg; on which occas
M. Schmidt entered into the particulars of
late ravages of the Prussians, and promise
give me an authentic account of them in writ
I adjourned by appointment to Mr. Wei
in order to see his cabinet of curiosities.
Weisse, who is also one of prince Lewis's
tlemen, conducted me, in the most polite m
ner, to his cabinet. His collection indee
excellent, consisting of fossils, minerals, sto
and shells, in the greatest variety. Such
lections are no where more common tha
Mecklenburg; there is hardly a town of
note without a virtuoso.

M. Weisse is not only a collector of cu
ties, but a philosopher. Talking of the p
fied shells found on the tops of mount
he said it was the common opinion, that e
the sea had formerly reached to that dist

ſo as to leave thoſe ſhells behind, or that they had been depoſited there by the general deluge. But this way of accounting for it ſeems inſufficient; becauſe thoſe ſhells are diſcovered, not only on the top, but in the very heart and center of the mountains, where it is very improbable the ſea-water could ever reach. He is therefore of opinion, that perfect teſtaceous animals never could grow any where but in the ſea, their fleſh being formed by that viſcous matter in the ſalt water, of which ſome philoſophers affirm, that eels are alſo engendered. But as for their ſhells, he ſays, they may grow on any place that has ſand and humidity enough to form a cement. And to this purpoſe he quoted Ariſtotle, in his hiſtory of animals, l. 5. c. 15. where that philoſopher ſays, that *conchæ, camæ, ungues, & pectines, locis arenoſis ortus ſui ſitibia capiunt.* Hence it comes to paſs, that as nature is ſupplied in the ſea with ſand and humidity, of which the ſhell is formed, and moreover with that viſcous matter which conſtitutes the fleſh, it is there only that perfect teſtaceous animals can have their birth. But on mountains, and other ſandy or gravelly places, which want the above viſcous matter, the ſhells only can be formed, which may be called *naturæ inchoatum*, there not being ſufficient matter to complete their generation. And hence alſo it is that ſhells are often

often found even in stones, b
said that forms the shells, c
wise to the generation of the
nients or joins them togeth
sufficient moisture living fish m
also found, as there have been li
weighing four pounds, discov
low of two large stones, joine
There was not time to e
cussion of this point; neith
proper to argue much with
who was treating me with
vility. I thereforere turned hi
sight of his curiosities; and d
at hand, made the best of m
There sat a nobleman at tab
not seen before, namely, baro
steward of the household, who
ed from the provincial diet, l
of Malchin. The baron ha
assembly, as the duke of Sch
sioner, in conjunction with h
sioner from his highness of St
tained me with an account o
of the diet, which sat but a
my taking notice of the short
he said, that the parliaments
Mecklenburg met much abo
but the latter dispatched busi
er than the former. I mad

believed their parliament had not that variety of buſineſs on their hands, or they certainly could not break up ſo ſoon. He ſmiled, and ſaid, it was true. I obſerved the room to be ſet round with tables, on which were ſpread all ſorts of mercery goods, as ſilks, ſtuffs, velvets, brocades, beſides toys of various ſorts, as watches, ſnuff-boxes, &c. This was a ſight altogether new to me; and upon aſking the reaſon, they told me, it was a mercer from Guſtrow, who comes hither to vend his goods two or three times a year; and to ſave the ladies trouble, the court is his ſhop. I was ſurpriſed at this indulgence; but cuſtom baniſhes, or, at leaſt, reconciles us to all impropriety. After dinner the company went and viewed the goods, and ſome bought, while others only looked on. From thence we adjourned to princeſs Ulrica's apartment, where her highneſs and Miſs Wurmb ſhewed me, each, another Engliſh letter of their inditing; which, conſidering the ſhort time they have been learning, viz. only two months, were tolerably well penned. The princeſs's teacher was there, and made an apology for not having corrected any errors, becauſe he would let me ſee the letters exactly as they came from their hands. His name is Kolbe, a native of Straſburg; he is a well bred ſenſible man, and ſpeaks pretty good Engliſh, but with a foreign accent.

cent. The princeſs then read a
of Sir Charles Grandiſon, but w
cent than her maſter. Thus t
till about ſix o'clock, when th
vited me to the aſſembly, wh
held that evening at baroll Sc
thanked her highneſs for the ho
and attended her to the baron's.

This nobleman is an officer i
of guards, a man of very good fi
deportment. His houſe is not
convenient and well furniſhed.
was very numerous, ſome abov
low ſtairs. There was a brillian
ladies, many of whom are fin
and I muſt obſerve to you, in
ſex in Mecklenburg are remark
Madam de Lutzow and madan
ſeemed to eclipſe the reſt by th
of their charms. Card tables v
room; and ſome played at whi
bre and quadrille. I had the h
at ombre, a little while, with
and colonel Both. We afte
hands, for I had almoſt forgot t
ron Forſtener took my place; I t
circle of young ladies, who pla
a game which amuſes me the
little attention. The compa
ſingly chearful; laughing and
time; and an agreeable circum

that I neither won nor loſt. Thus we beguiled the hours till paſt nine, when the company ſepa-rated. Upon our removing to princeſs Ulrica's apartment, the princeſs and Miſs Wurmb ſhew-ed me two ſhort tranſlations of theirs, from the German into Engliſh. I commended what was right, and took the liberty to correct their miſtakes, for which they kindly thanked me. Thus I officiate here every day as her high-neſs's præceptor in the Engliſh language. Prin-ceſs Charlotte, who has not yet been admitted a member of this academy, liſtens with great attention, and ſmiles at the eager ſedulity with which her good ſiſter, princeſs Ulrica, applies to her Engliſh ſtudies. When the hour of withdrawing comes, the prince and two prin-ceſſes embrace one another with as much ten-derneſs as if they were at a long ſeparation.

The next morning baron Zulow called upon me with the draught of the palace of Lu-dewigs-Luſt, which the duke had been ſo good as to ſend me as ſoon as finiſhed. He told me there was to be a concert in the even-ing, at prince Lewis's apartment, where his highneſs would be glad to ſee me. This in-vitation was very acceptable, as you know I am a lover of muſic. Before I waited on prin-ceſs Ulrica, at the uſual time in the forenoon, I went to ſee ſome paintings in M. Matthieu's apartment. M. Matthieu is a native of Pruſſia, now

then come to ſupper. The concert-room is large and commodious, and adorned with handſome pictures. The band of muſic is very good; the firſt violin is a native of Hanover, who alſo plays well on the harpſichord. Prince Lewis plays the ſecond violin. The ſingers are princeſs Charlotte, Miſs Wurmb, and ſignora Amabile, and a man who ſings the baſe. Signora Amabile has an excellent voice, a good ear, and great judgment. Princeſs Charlotte ſang ſeveral Italian ſongs with inexpreſſible grace; I muſt own I was quite enchanted with her performance, and might ſay with the ecſtaſied Italian, *poco mancò che non reſtaſſi in cielo.*

From her e'en Philomel might learn to ſing,
And in a ſofter ſtrain ſalute the ſpring.

Yet as all earthly pleaſures have ſome alloy, my raptures were now and then interrupted by an impudent monkey, who was chained to a long pole in the concert-room. This animal had got a-top of the pole, and ſeemed to be very attentive to the muſic, when a little Italian greyhound made his appearance, and invited monſieur to come down. The monkey no longer paid any attention to the muſic, but obeyed the greyhound's call, and their ſportive geſticulations ſet the company a-laughing. This ſcene was ſeveral times repeated, to my no ſmall mortification,

dication, for I could not but feel a just indignation, that an entertainment of so delicate a nature should be thus interrupted by so contemptible an animal.

During supper, we had a good deal of conversation with regard to the state of music in England, and the opera in the Haymarket. The age of some persons being afterwards questioned, princess Ulrica observed, that princes and princesses have one great advantage, that their age is recorded, and a matter of public knowledge; which prevents the vanity of concealing their years, and pretending to be younger than they really are. The discourse was then changed to Mr. Wilkes and lord Chatham, who are continually the topic of conversation in this part of the world. I find that many of the gentry here know very little of the constitution of England; and I have often been obliged to set them right upon articles, with which one would have imagined persons of their liberal education could not be unacquainted. But I have observed the same ignorance in France and Italy; and, generally speaking, very few people have a right idea of the constitution and government of any other country than their own; and even in regard to that, how many are deficient!

In returning home, I felt it piercingly cold. The frost is set in already, and threatens a severe winter. It is time to be gone; I have

tranſcribed what I wanted in the archives, and received ſeveral original papers from counſellor Schmidt, and other literati. I propoſe therefore taking my leave of their ſerene highneſſes to-morrow or next day, and then for Hamburgh. My ſtay in that city ſhall be as ſhort as poſſible; ſo that your next may be directed to me at Amſterdam. My mind is now all in a hurry, and a ſtrange agitation.

——— There's a time when e'en the rolling year
Seems to ſtand ſtill; dead calms are in the ocean,
When not a breath diſturbs the drowſy waves:
But man, the very monſter of the world,
Is ne'er at at reſt.———

However, I hope I ſhall reſt a-while at my return to London; the toils and perils of travelling being over, I ſhall there divide my time between friends and books, a term moſt anxiouſly deſired by,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

LET-

T T E R XXI.

Schwerin, December 1, 1766.

ewis did me the honour yeſter-
ing to invite me to breakfaſt,
me a full view of his cabinet
ch I had ſeen but very curſori-
rival. It is really a fine collec-
any in this country, except
n, Syndic of Roſtock. I ſtaid
the whole morning, exa-
e which are reckoned the
rious. His highneſs made
narks on many of the me-
you is a connoiſſeur. A
medals of a country is
rt of its hiſtory; and be-
n of a liberal curioſity,
urate acquaintance with
wiſe, would be under-
ectly. From the affec-
hiſtory of this coun-
eſirous I ſhould ſend
you

you an account of its medals and coins; and I have used all my endeavours to acquire as much knowledge of the subject, as may enable me to gratify your curiosity. But you are sensible, it is too large an undertaking to comprehend within the limits of a letter; I shall therefore only send you a specimen at present, relating to the gold coins; and defer treating of the others till I have more leisure and opportunity. I must previously observe, that there is no such thing as a medallic history of Mecklenburg; yet the coins and medals of this country are not only very numerous, but many of them remarkable. Hence I flatter myself, that you will be pleased with the following essay; in which I have been chiefly assisted by my learned friend professor Æpinus of Butzow.

So late as the 12th century there was no coin in Mecklenburg; all business was transacted by barter or exchange. But the commerce of the Hanse towns, or maritime cities, afterwards introduced the use of money. The *jus monetandi*, or privilege of coining, belongs to the dukes of Mecklenburg *jure territorii*, and not by any imperial grant; for before they were made princes of the empire in 1348, they coined money, and had conferred that same right, or *jus monetandi*, on the city of Roſtock. The first specie was the pfennings, ill minted, and on account of their being very thin and brittle,

tle, by the vulgar called chaffinches eyes. They were current in the 13th century, and marked with a buffalo's head, the ancient arms of the ſerene family. At that time forty-eight pfennings made a mark. This ſmall ſpecie uſed to be delivered in weight; and thus five pounds of chaffinches eyes amounted to five marks. The chaffinches eyes being ſo very brittle, were kept in bags, made of goats ſkins, which the women uſed to hang upon their girdle. In paying a large ſum, they were put into a paper and weighed. But the public growing tired of ſuch brittle ſpecie, the Hanſe towns of Lubeck, Wiſmar, and Hamburg, firſt coined the hard ſchillings, in 1468. Twelve ſchillings were reckoned to make a florin. A pound of pure ſilver at that time coſt two pounds and fifteen ſchillings in ſpecie; and a pound of ſilver melted down, was made to anſwer three pounds and nine pfennings. Money was afterwards greatly adulterated, in conſequence of granting the privilege of coinage to ſuch a number of cities. Thus the intrinſic value of the ſpecie no longer correſponded with the denomination. This avarice of the imperial cities, and of many of the German princes, was repreſented to the emperor Sigiſmund; who iſſued an edict, that any city, town, or company, debaſing the ſpecie, ſhould pay a hundred weight of gold, and be for ever deprived of the privilege of coining.

To determine the precise time when gold was first coined in Mecklenburg, is extremely difficult, if not impossible. From the best observations and enquiries, gold coin does not appear to have been current here before the year 1441; and the first pieces were Lubeck and Rhenish gold gilders. The privilege of coining gold was particularly confirmed by a patent of the emperor Maximilian I. in 1485, to the dukes Magnus and Balthasar. The following list, which I have drawn up for the fuller gratification of your particular curiosity, contains all the Mecklenburg coins and medals since that time, in a chronological order.

LIST of MECKLENBURG GOLD COINS and MEDALS.

[*N. B. (a) Signifies the face of the medal, or coin; (b) the reverse.*]

THE first Mecklenburg gold coin that I know of is a gold gilder, which, in the emperor Charles V's. coinage ordinance of the year 1551, chap. IX. §. 8. is denoted thus:

Mecklenburgiſche Obn. S. Chriſtoff.

S. Goldoſt's Catholicon Rei Monet. S. 164. In the ſame ordinance, chap. IV. §. 4. the value of the imperial gold-gilder is ſet down at 72 creutzers; in the valuation are mentioned the deficient; and among theſe, this of Mecklenburg, the value of which, as of others, is ſet down only at 69½ creutzers. In the coinage ordinance of the emperor Ferdinand I. in 1559. §. 87. Goldoſt's Cathol. Rei Mon. S. 141. as likewiſe the firſt edition of it, publiſhed, in ſmall folio, at Mentz 1559, by Francis Behm, which is now very ſcarce, fol. 16. *a.* it likewiſe bears the ſame mark; but in Mr. Kahlen's Corp. Jur. Publ. p. 544. this is its mark: *Mecklenburgiſche S. Chriſtoff.* This gold-gilder is there placed among thoſe, which, after ſix months, were no longer to be current, or received in payment. Neither the year in which it was coined, nor the prince to whom it is to be aſcribed, are known. It is not improbable, that the dukes Magnus and Balthazar, having obtained the imperial privilege, did not delay making uſe of it; and thus began their gold coinage, as before it had been limited to ſilver. The mark *Ohne St. Chriſtoff*, ſeems to ſignify, that even gold-gilders, to be compleatly current, muſt bear the ſtamp of that Saint. It is in vain, I fear, to wiſh for a ſight of ſuch a gold-gilder; the deficient coins, by an ordinance of the emperor Ferdinand, have been melted down, and thus are no longer in being.

DUKE ALBERT THE HANDSOME.

2. A gold-gilder. (*a*) Our Saviour conſecrating a chalice, which he holds in his hand. *Albertus. De. Gra. Dux.*

M. (b) Five coats of arms crosswise, *Moneta. Nova. Aurea. Duc. Meg.*

See Treasure of all the Species, Forms, and Sorts of Gold and Silver Coins; Antwerp 1580. fol. n. S. 6. a. where you have a plate of this coin; and its weight is said to be two drams and twelve grains. Duke Albert had many disputes with his brother duke Henry, the Peaceable, concerning the partition of the country; which at length were accommodated, by a twenty years convention made at Wismar in 1534. He died in 1547. The both brothers governed in common, and sometimes coined in common, yet each separately caused several larger and smaller pieces to be coined, bearing their particular name.

These gold-gilders I look upon to be one of the scarcest Mecklenburg coins. Whether the image, with the chalice on the face, be our Saviour, according to the book above mentioned, I know not. In the list of coins, with the effigies of saints, which is to be found in the third drawer of Mr. Grosch's cabinet, lately made public, it is observed that the Cleves and Mecklenburg coins have the Evangelist John holding a chalice or cup, with a serpent or aspic in it.

Duke John Albert I.

3. A ducat. (a) The duke's bust with a hat on. *Johann. Albert. D. G. Dux. Mega.* 1554. (b) The coat of arms. *Premi. Co. Tollimur.*

The words on the reverse are, *Premente cruce tollimur*; and the same, as apposite to the times, were likewise put on some small money, coined at that turbulent juncture.

Duke Ulric.

4. A gold piece. (a) The duke's bust in high relievo. *Ul. H. Z. Meck.* (b) The arms with the supporters and crest. The weight of this piece I never heard specified.

5. A gold piece. (a) The bust very prominent, the head covered; round it 1562. *Ulrick. Hert. Z. Meckhelbur.* (b) The coat of arms complete. *Herr Gott. Verleich. Uns. Gnad.* Weighs three ducats, and, like the former, has the appearance of being cast.

6. A gold piece. (a) The bust. *Ulrick. Hertzog. Z. Meck.*

Meck. Ætatis 75. (b) The duchess's bust, *V. G. G. Anna G. Z. S. P. H. S. Meck. W.* This piece, which appears likewise to have been cast, weighs near five ducats. Duke Ulrick was born the twenty-first of April 1527, and died the fourth of March 1603. His widow possibly might have ordered such pieces for the celebration of his obsequies, and distributed on the occasion; on this supposition, the legend on the reverse is easily made out: *V. G. G. Anna gebohrne zu Stettin Pommern, Hertzogin zu Mecklenburg Wittwe.*

The three preceding pieces were probably, according to the custom of those times, struck for medals to be given away occasionally.

7. A gold piece of the dimensions, and the same impression, of one of this duke's dollars. Its weight is that of a Portuguese crusado.

Sophia, Duke Ulric's daughter, consort to Frederick II. king of Denmark.

The medals on the marriages of persons of the ducal family with foreign princes or princesses, are intitled to a place here, as appertaining to the history of the ducal house.

8. (*a*) The king's bust, bare-headed, and a quilled ruff; under it 1587. *Fredericus II. D. G. Daniæ. Norvegiæ. Z. Rex.* (*b*) The queen's bust, the head covered, and a broad ruff. *Sophia Konnigin. Zu. Denmarck. Z.* See a plate of it in Oligeri Jacobœi Museum Regium Danicum, edit. 2. p. LXXVII. n. 21.

9. A small round coin. (*a*) The king's bust. *Fredericus II. D. G. R. D. N.* (*b*) The queen's bust. *Sophia. D. G. Regina Dan.* Jacobœus l. c. n. 23.

10. (*a*) The queen's bust, as in number 6. *Sophia Konigin. Zu Denmarck.* (*b*) The same figure as on the other side. Jacobœus l. c. n. 24.

11. (*a*) The queen's bust in a broad quilled ruff. *Sophia Konigin. Zu. Denmarck. Z.* (*b*) The *Mecklenburg* arms. *Gott. Verlest. Die. Seinen. Nicht.* 1591. Jacobœus l. c. n. 25.

12. An oval coin, stamped only on one side. The queen's bust in mourning. *Sophia Konigin. Zu Denmarck. Z.* Jacobœus l. c. n. 26.

13. A small oval coin. (*a*) as the former. *Sophia Konigin.*

gin. Lut. Denmarck. (*b*) The Mecklenburg arms. *Gott. Verlegt. Dei. Semen. Nicht.* 1616. Jacobœus l. c. n. 27.

The preceding coins are in the king's cabinet at Copenhagen. Jacobœus p. 77. *a*, says concerning them, Nummi ejuſmodi bullæ erant Reginæ munificentiſſimæ quibus ſuos clientes decorare ſolita eſt.

THE DUKES ADOLPHUS FREDERICK I. AND JOHN ALBERT II.

14. Medal. (*a*) The buſts of both dukes. (*b*) A pelican, tearing up its own breaſt, to feed the young ones with its blood. This piece was ſtruck for the public entry of the dukes into Guſtrow, on the country being reſtored to them in 1631, and were thrown among the people on that happy event.

THE GUSTROW LINE.

DUKE JOHN ALBERT II.

15. Ducat. (*a*) The duke erect, and armed cap-a-pie, with his left hand reſting on his ſword. *V. G. G. Hans. Albrecht. C. E. R. H. Z. Mech. F. Z. W. G. Z. S.* (*b*) The arms. *Non eſt mortale quod opto*, 1633. The letters *C. E. R.* undoubtedly mean Coadjutor Epiſcopatus Raceburgenſis.

DUKE GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS.

16. Ducat. (*a*) The duke's buſt. *D. G. Guſtav. Adolphus, Dux Meckl.* (*b*) The arms ſurmounted with a prince's cap. *Quid retribuam Domino*, 1666.

17. Ducat like the former, 1668.

18. Ducat of the year 1671. See David Richter, Nummi Sacri, §. 15.

19. Ducat as numero 16, of the year 1672. See Köhler Ducaten Cabinet. part. 2. ſect. 621.

20. Ducat, as the former, of the year 1674.

21. Ducat of the year 1675.

22. Ducat. (*a*) The buſt. *D. G. Guſt. Adolp. Dux Meckl.* (*b*) The arms. *Quid retribuam Domino*, 1689.

23. Ducat. (*a*) The buſt. *D. G. Guſt. Adolphus Dux.* (*b*) The arms. *Quid retribuam Domino*, 1688.

Ducat, as number 22, 1687.

Ducat. (*a*) The buſt. *D. G. Guſtav. Adolp. Dux. Mecklb.*

Mecklb. (*b*) The arms: *Quid retri——huam*, (this diviſion of the word is on each ſide of the prince's hat) *Domino*, 1688.

26. Ducat, like the former, 1689.

PRINCESS ELEONORA.

27. Medal, weighing two ducats. (*a*) The arms. *Dei Gratia. Guſtavus Adolphus Dux. Mekl.* (*b*) *Anno quo celſiſſima princeps Eleonora primogenita domus, poſt feliciter peractum vitæ curriculum beata morte, 24. Februarii, extincta, magnum ſui reliquit deſiderium.* 1672.——This medal is likewiſe in ſilver; weight 8 groſches.

PRINCESS SOPHIA, CONSORT TO DUKE CHRISTIAN ULRIC OF WURTEMBERG-OELS, AND BERNSTADT.

28. Gold medal weighing 10 ducats, of the year 1701, with the buſts of the duke and his conſort facing each other. See Dewerdeck Sileſia Numiſmatica, Tab. 21. n. 54. p. 475, 476.

29. A medal weighing 18 ducats, for the ducheſs's birth-day 1702. The buſts of the duke and ducheſs. There is alſo one in ſilver, weighing two ounces. See Dewerdeck l. c. n. 55. p. 456. 477.

30. Ducat. (*a*) The duke's buſt. *D. G. Chriſt. Ulr. Dux. W. T. I. S. O. Et. B.* (*b*) The dutcheſs's buſt. *D. G. Sophia Duc. W. T. I. S. Ols. B. N. D. M. P. W. S. R.*

PRINCESS LOUISA, MARRIED TO FREDERICK IV. KING OF DENMARK.

31. Double ducat. (*a*) The king's buſt. *Frid. IV. D. G. Dan. N. V. G. Rex.* 1705. (*b*) The queen's buſt. *Louiſa D. G. Dan. N. V. G. Rex.* See Numophylacium Ehrencronianum, p. 299. n. 218.

32. Double ducat (*a*). The king's buſt. *Frid. IV. D. G. Dan. Nor. V. G. Rex.* 1705. (*b*). The queen's buſt. *Louiſa D. G. Reg. Dan. Nor. Van. Goth.*

33. A ſmall neat medal. (*a*) The king's buſt, and ſtile. (*b*) The queen's buſt and ſtile. Is a quarter of a ducat.

34. Small medal. (*a*) The queen's buſt. (*b*) The ſun. Legend, *L'Incomparable.* Is like the preceding, a quarter of a ducat; and both are alſo in ſilver.

Pieces

Pieces were alſo ſtruck on this queen's marriage, coronation, birth-day, and delivery; but which hitherto I have met with only in ſilver.

THE SCHWERIN LINE.

ADOLPHUS FREDERICK I.

35. Gold oval medallion. (*a*) The duke's buſt. (*b*) The duke's conſort's buſt. Said to weigh near 7 crowns.

36. The like. (*a*) The buſt in profile with quilled ruff. *Adolph. Frederick. H. Z. Mburg.* Fortune with its ſails ſpread on a winged ball. *Fortune. in Fortune. Fort. Une.*

It weighs near 7 crowns, and is to be ſeen in the duke of Saxe-Gotha's cabinet of medals. Appears to be caſt. See Tentzel's Curieuſe Bibliotheque. Repoſitor. 1. drawer V. p. 446.

37. A medal. (*a*) The buſt is a ſtiffened ruff. *Adolph. Frider. V. G. G. Hertz. Z. Mechl. F. Z. W. G. Z. S. D. L. R. U. S. H.* (*b*) Fortune on a winged ball, with ſome horſemen by. *Fortune. in Fortune. Fort. Une.* 1612. Weighs 6 ducats.

38. One exactly of the ſame impreſſion; weighing 5 ducats.

39. A ſquare medal with the duke's buſt and arms, of the year 1633.

Is ſet down at 3 ducats weight, and preſerved in the collection of the late Mr. Niehenk, at Gottenburg.

40. Ducat. (*a*) The buſt in profile. *Adolph. Fredr. V. G. G. H. Z. M. F. Z. W. A. D. S.* (*b*) The arms with three creſts. *V. G. Z. S. D. L. R. U. S. H. An.* 1639.

41. The buſt in profile, with a laced ruff. *Adolph. Fredr. V. G. G. H. Z. M. F. Z. W. A. D. S.* (*b*) The arms. *V. G. Z. S. D. L. R. U. S. H.* 1642. Theſe pieces weigh ſix ducats.

PRINCESS ANNA MARIA, CONSORT TO AUGUSTUS DUKE OF SAXONY.

42. A ducat. (*a*) The cypher, *A. M.* begins the initial letters of the princeſs's name, ſurmounted with a crown, and within a wreath, *Deum Qui Habet. Omnia Habet.* (*b*) *Nata. Suer. I. Jul.* 1627. *Denat. Hal. 2. Dec.* 1669. *Ætat.* XLII. *M.* 5. *D.* 10.

A silver medal, in value two gold gilders, was likewise struck on her funeral.

DUKE CRISTIAN LEWIS I.

43. A double ducat. (*a*) The buſt. *Christ. Lud. D. G. Dux. Megap. Princ. Vand.* (*b*) The arms, within the French order of the Holy Ghoſt, and crowned; underneath, 1681. *Jehova. Sors. Mea.*

DUKE FREDERICK WILLIAM.

44. Ducat. (*a*) The buſt. *Fred. Will. D. G. Dux. Mec. P. V.* (*b*) The arms. Underneath 1696. *Non. Eſt. Mortale. Quod. Opto.*

45. Ducat. (*a*) The letters *F. W.* under a crown, *D. G. Dux. Megap. Princ. Vand.* (*b*) The arms, within a mantle, and ſurmounted with a crown. The inſcription. 1696. *Non. Eſt. Mortale. Quod. Opto.*

46. Ducat. (*a*) The buſt. *Frid. Will. D. G. Dux. Meg. P. V. A.* (*b*) As number 45.

47. Ducat. (*a*) The buſt. *Fridr. Will. D. G. Dux. Mecl.* (*b*) The arms crowned. *Quo. Deus. Et. Fortuna. Ducunt.* 1701.

48. Ducat (*a*). The arms crowned. *Fridericus. Will. D. G. Dux. Mecklenb.* (*b*) Buffalo's head within a wreath. *Quo. Deus. Et. Fortuna. Ducunt.* 1701. On both ſides are theſe letters, *Z. D. K.* being the name of Mr. Kalp, the maſter of the mint.

49. A half ducat, entirely like the former.

50. A quarter ducat, d°.

51. Ducat. *Quo. Fas. Et. Gloria. Ducunt.*

52. A medal. (*a*) The duke's buſt in armour. *Fridericus. Wilhelmus. D. G. Dux. Megapolitanus. Princ. Felix. Inclitus.* (*b*) The two palaces of *Schwerin* and *Guſtrow*, faſtened to a chain, with a buffalo's head holding it up in the middle. *Dei. Gratia. Cæſaris. Leopoldi. Auſtriaci.* In the exergue, *Indiſſolubili Junxit Catena, Z. D. K. Anno* 1701.

Weighs 20 ducats. See alſo Richteri Nummi Sacri, §. 19.

53. Medal. (*a*) and (*b*) both like the former. The exergue, *Indiſſolubili Junxit Catena. Hamb. 8 Mart. Ao.* 1701. The legend, *Major: Majoribus, Cæſaris. Ad. Majora. Autor.* Weighs 10 ducats.

54. Medal.

54. Medal. (*a*) The two reſidentiary palaces of *Schwerin* and *Guſtrow*, within a chain, which is held by a hand ſtretched out from the clouds. In the middle of the chain is ſuſpended a *padlock*, under it *a ſhip at ſea*. *Gott. Hat. Auf. Zweyen. Eins. Gemacht.* In the exergue, *Conſolidata. Megapoli*, 1701. 8 *Martii*. (*b*) 2 Angels with palm-branches in their left hand, and in their right holding a buffalo's head. *Und. Mecklenburg. Zur. Ruh. Gebracht.* The exergue, *Gaudium Mecklenburgicum*. 1701, 16*th of July*. Weighs 8 ducats. The three laſt pieces were ſtruck in commemoration of the union of the two duchies, and are likewiſe in ſilver.

55. Ducat. (*a*) The name in a cypher crowned. (*b*) The arms, and under them 1703. *Et. Conſtanter*. In the exergue, *Z. D. R.*

56. Ducat. (*a*) The buſt. *Frederi. Wilhe. D. G. Dux. Megapo.* (*b*) Entirely like the former.

57. Ditto, except that the inſcription on (*a*) is, *Frider. Wilhel. D G. Dux Megapol. P. V.*

58. Ducat. (*a*) The buſt *Frid. Wilhelm. D. G. Dux. Megapol.* (*c*) Like the former.

59. Half ducat. (*a*) The buſt. *Fridr. Wilhel. D. G. Dux. Megap.* (*b*) In the center, *Half Ducaten. Provide. Et. Conſtanter.*

60. Quarter ducat. (*a*) Like the former. (*b*) In the center, *Quarter Ducaten. Provide. Et. Conſtanter.*

61. Quarter ducat, as the former, except that the inſcription in (*a*) is *Fredr. Wilhel. D. G. Dux. Megap.*

62. Ducat. (*a*) The buſt. Under it, *Z. D. R. Frider. Wilhel. D. G. Dux. Megapol. P. V.* (*b*) Two perſons of each ſex in a bark on the ſea. *Unum et Commune Periculum*. 1703.

63. Ducat. (*a*) As the former. (*b*) As the former. In the exergue, 1704.

64. Ducat. (*a*) As the former. *Frid. Wilh. D. G. Dux. Megapol.* (*b*) *Unum. Et. Commune. Periculum.* In the exergue, 1704.

The two perſons are thought to repreſent the duke and his conſort, on a ſuppoſition that theſe medals were ſtruck on their marriage; but that having been poſterior to the year, the emblem ſeems to have ſome other alluſion.

65. Medal. (*a*) The buſt. Under it, *I. E. Hilsen* (the name of the celebrated medalliſt) *Frider. Wilhelm. D. G. Dux. Megap. Princ. Vand.* (*b*) The new Schelf church

at Schwerin, with the inſcription *Gloriam Et Memoriam. Duc. Megap.* 20 *Nov.* MDCCX. Weighs 10 ducat ſilver, weighing an ounce and a half. other medals ſtruck on the occaſion, met with them only in ſilver.

66. Ducat, with buſt and arms *Louiſa*, the ſaid duke's ſiſter, and m king of Pruſſia.

67, Medal on their marriage. (*a*) drawn along the clouds in a chario *Nova Gaudia Mundo. Fridericus I. et Sophia Louiſa. Princeps. Mecklen.* gods ſitting oppoſite to each other, ing from two urns, one with the Pru the other the Mecklenburgh buffalo's *Fluminis. Undas.* Exergue, *Nuptiis.* 1708. *Felic. Celebratis.* Weighs 5 d ſilver.

DUKE CHARLES LEO

68. (*a*) *C. L.* the initial letters o pher under a crown, 1723. (*b*) In crowned, and environed with a glor Jeſus ſtamped on it. *In. Hoc. Om* two ducats, is likewiſe in ſilver, b coined. As it is the only coin of impreſſion extremely delicate, it is v

DUKE CHRISTIAN LE

69. Medal. (*a*) The buſt in ver *Chriſtianus. Ludovicus D. Megapolit* within the order of the elephant, ar lofty crown. *Per. Anguſta. Ad. Aug* 10 ducats, and is likewiſe in ſilver. a preſent of one of theſe medals.

70. Double piſtole. (*a*) The *D. G. Dux. Mecklenb.* (*b*) The ar the orders of the Elephant and S mounted with a crown. 1752. *P guſta.*

71. Ditto, perfectly like the forme ing in a ſmall oval ſhield.

72. (a) The buſt. *Chriſt. Lud. D. G. Dux. Meckl.* (b) The arms within both the above-mentioned orders, above, 1754: underneath, 5. *Th. O. H. K.* The firſt of theſe letters denotes its value 5 thalers, or dollars: *O. H. K.* is the name of Mr. Knorr, maſter of the mint.

73. (a) The buſt. *Chriſt. Ludov. D. G. Dux. Meckl.* (b) Quarter ducat. 1756. *Per. Auguſta. Ad. Auguſta.*

THE STRELITZ LINE.

DUKE ADOLPHUS FREDERICK III.

74. (a) The buſt. *D. G. Adolph. Frid. III. Mecklenb. Dux.* (b) A church irradiated from the heavens, oppoſite to it, Faith, with the anchor, and the Mecklenburg buffalo's head on it. *A. Deo.* The exergue, *Megapolit. Jubilans. Anno.* 1717. 31 *Oct.*

75. Ducats. (a) Like the preceding. (b) The church on a rock in the middle of the ocean. *Conſilio. Stat. Firma. Dei.*

Only three pieces coined. The ſtamp being ſo diſfigured at the fourth ſtroke as to be unfit for uſe.

76. (a) Like the former. (b) The heavenly Jeruſalem. *Nec. Ingens. Si. Corruat. Orbis. V.* The exergue like the two preceding.

77. (a) The letters *A. F.* within a beautiful border, and a crown. Over it 1746. (b) *II. Taler. Currant. G. H. I. Monata. Aurea. Megapol.* The letters *G. H. I.* are the initials of the name of Mr. Jaſher, maſter of the mint.

78. (a) The initial letters of the name as in the former. Over it 1746. (b) *I. Taler. Curr. C. H. I. Monete. Aurea. Megapol.*

79. (a) The initial letters of the name as in the former. Over it 1747. (b) *II. Taler. Currant. C. H. I. Monata. Aurea. Megapol.*

80. (a) The buſt in a full wig. *D. G. Adolph. Frid. III. Mecklenb. Dux.* (b) The arms ſurmounted with a crown. 1747. Above, 5 *Taler.* Beneath, *C. H. I.*

81. (a) The initial letters *A. E.* 1747. (b) *III. Gute. Pfennig. M. S. L. M.*

82. (a) A beautiful cypher of the ducal name crowned. *F. G. G. H. Z. M.* Underneath, 1748. (b) Three buffalo's

buffalo's head within a moulding, crowned. Underneath, 5 *Thaler. C. H. J.*

83. (*a*) The buſt in a full wig. *D. G. Adolp. Frid. III. Mecklenb. Dux.* (*b*) The arms, crowned, within the order of the Elephant. Over it, 1749. Beneath, *H. C. B.* expreſſing the name of Mr. Baumgarten, maſter of the mint. It is a piſtole.

84. A piſtole. (*a*) The buſt with a tye wig. *D. G. Adolph. Friedrich. III. Dux. Meckl.* (*b*) Like the former.

85. (*a*) The initial letters of the names on a cartouche crowned; above, 1749. (*b*) *I. Thaler. Courr. C. H. I. Moneta. Aurea. Megapol.*

Duke Adolphus Frederic IV. our Queen's Brother.

86. A piſtole. (*a*) The buſt in armour, *Adolphus. Fridar. IV. D. G. Dux. Megap.* (*b*) The arms, crowned, within the Saxon order of the White Eagle. Over it, 1745. Beneath, *H. C. B.*

87. A piſtole. (*a*) The buſt in a Roman habit. *Adolphus Frid. IV. D. G. Dux. Megap.* (*b*) The arms, crowned, within the order of the Seraphim. Above, 1754. Beneath, *H. C. B.*

II. Albert Wallenstein.

The coins ſtruck by him with the Mecklenburg arms, with propriety belong to this place.

88. A golden piece in the ſhape of a dollar. (*a*) The buſt. Underneath, 1629. *Alber. D. G. Dux. Megap. Fri. Et. Sag. Princ. Vandal.* (*b*) The arms, with the order of the Golden Fleece. *Comes. Suerin. Domin. Rostoch. Et. Stargart.* Weighs 10 ducats, and was ſtruck with a dollar ſtamp.

89. Double ducat. (*a*) The buſt. *Albertus. D. G. Dux. Megapol. Fridl.* (*b*) The arms. *Et. Sagn. Princ. Vandal.* 1631.

90. Ducat. (*a*) The buſt. *Albertus. D. G. Dux. Megapol. Fridl.* (*b*) The arms. *Et. Sagn. Princ. Vandal.* 1631.

91. Ducat of the ſame year, but another impreſſion, with ſome ſmall differences.

92. Ducat. (*a*) The buſt. *Albertus. D. G. Dux. Megapol. Fridl.* (*b*) The arms. *Et. Sagæ. Princ. Vandal.* 1633.

93. A double ducat of the like impreſſion.

94. (*a*) The buſt. *Albertus. D. G. Dux. Megap. Frid. Sag. Et. Glog.* (*b*) The arms. *Prin. Vand. Com. Suer. Do. Roſt. Et. Star.* 1634. Weighs five ducats and a half.

95. (*a*) The buſt. *Albertus. D. G. Dux. Megapo. Fridlan.* (*b*) The arms. *Et. Sagæ. Princ. Vandalor.* 1634. Its weight 3 ducats.

96. Double ducat. Impreſſion like the former.

The five laſt pieces are very remarkable, and number 94 the moſt. Wallenſtein had been totally driven out of the Mecklenburg territories in the year 1632; and the violent cataſtrophe which was the reſult of his crimes, followed in the year 1634, the very year when the three laſt pieces were coined.

III. COINS AND MEDALS OF CITIES.

ROSTOCK.

97. A gold medal. In weight 12 ducats.

98. A gold coin of 10 ducats, ſaid to be coined on the perpetual agreement of the year 1574.

99. (*a*) A griffin crowned. *Moneta. Nova. Roſtockiens.* (*b*) The Imperial eagle. *Rudol. II. D. G. Ro. Imp. S. An.* 1609. Is a deficient gold gilder.

100. (*a*) A griffin. *Mone. Nova. Roſtockiens*, 1614. (*b*) The Imperial eagle. *Matthias. D. G. Ro. Imp. Sem. A. P. F. D.* A gold gilder.

101. A double gold gilder. (*a*) The griffin. *Mone. Nov. Roſtochi.* 1623. (*b*) The imperial eagle. *Ferdinand. II. D. G. R. I. S. Augu.*

102. A gold gilder. 1625.

103. A gold gilder. (*a*) The griffin. *Mone. Nov. Roſtoch.* (*b*) The Imperial eagle. *Ferdinan. II. D. G. R. I. S. A.*

104. Ducat. (*a*) The griffin. 1632. *Moneta. Aurea. Civit. Roſtoch.* (*b*) The Imperial eagle. *Ferdinand. II. Rom. Imp. S. A.*

105. A ducat. (*a*) The city arms. *Moneta. Aurea. Civita. Roſtoch.* 1633. (*b*) As the former. *Ferdinandus II. D. G. Rom. Imp. S. Aug.*

106. A ducat of the year 1634.

107. Ducat.

107. Ducat. (*a*) The city arms. *Moneta. Aurea. Civita. Roſtoch.* 1636. (*b*) As the former. *Ferdinandus II. D. G. Rom. Im. S. Au.*

108. Ducat. (*a*) Entirely like the former. (*b*) The Imperial eagle. *Ferdinand. III. D. G. Rom. I. S. A.*

109. Ducat. (*a*) As the former. (*b*) As the former. *Ferdinandus III. D. G. Rom. Im. S. A.*

110. Double ducat. (*a*) Within a ſquare. *Ducatus. Novus. Civitatis. Roſtochienſis.* Underneath, the city arms. 1639. *Deus. Protector. Noſter.* (*b*) The Imperial eagle. *Ferdinandus III. D. G. Rom. Imp. Semp. Au.*

111. (*a*) The city arms. Under them, 1646. *Moneta. Aurea. Civita. Roſtoch.* (*b*) The Imperial eagle. *Ferdinandus III. D. G. Ro. Im. S. A.*

112. Ducat. (*a*) The city arms. 1655. *Moneta. Aurea. Civita. Roſtoch.* (*b*) Like the former.

113. Ducat. (*a*) The city arms. *Mone. Aurea. Civi. Roſtoc.* 1661. (*b*) The Imperial eagle. *Leopoldus. D. G. Rom. Imp. S. A.*

114. Ducat. (*a*) The city arms. *Mone. Aurea. Civi. Roſtoc.* 1664. (*b*) Like the former.

115. Ducat. (*a*) The city arms. *Mone. Aurea. Civi. Roſtoch.* 1665.

116. Ducat. (*a*) The city arms. *Mone. Aurea. Civi. Roſtoc.* 1682. (*b*) Like n. 114.

117. Ducat. (*a*) The city arms. *Mone. Aurea. Civi. Roſtoc.* 1642. (*b*) Like the former.

118. Ducat. (*a*) The city arms. *I. M. Mone. Aurea. Civi. Roſto.* 1694. (*b*) Like the former. *I. M.* the maſter of the mint's name.

119. Double ducat. (*a*) The arms. Over them, 1695. Beneath, *Mo. No. Civitatis. Roſtoch.* Legend. *Deus. Protector. Noſter.* (*b*) The Imperial eagle. *Leopoldus, D. G. Rom. Imp. S. Aug.*

120. Half ducat. (*a*) The griffin. *Mon. Aur. Roſtochienſis.* 1695. (*b*) The Imperial eagle. *Leopoldus. D. D. R. I. S. A.*

121. Quarter ducat. (*a*) The city arms. *Mo. No. Roſtoch.* (*b*) Quarter ducat. *Leop. D. G. R. I. S. A.* 1696.

122. Ducat. (*a*) The griffin. *Senat. Popq. Roſtoch.* Under it, *Nunc. Reviviſco. I. M.* (*b*) The Imperial eagle. *Leopoldus D. G. Rom. Imper. S. A.* 1704.

123. Ducat. (*a*) The city arms. *D. B.* (the name of Mr. Behrens, master of the mint.) Underneath, *Monet. Aurea. Roſtochienſis.* 1762. (*b*) The Imperial eagle. *Franciſcus D. G. Rom. Imp. Semp. Auguſt.*

WISMAR, TO THE YEAR 1648.

Schroder in his account of the city and lordſhip of Wiſmar, ſays, that ſo early as the year 1400, it coined gold; but he has not produced a ſingle proof of his aſſertion.

124. Gold gilder of the year 1502.

125. Gold gilder. (*a*) St. Laurence with the gridiron and branch of palms. Under it the city arms. *Mone. Nova. Au. Civ. Wiſmar.* (*b*) The Imperial eagle, with the emperor's name and titles.

126. A gold gilder of the year 1604.

127. A gold gilder. (*a*) St. Laurence with the gridiron and branch of palms. Under it the city arms. *Mone. Nova. Wiſmar.* 16.. The Imperial eagle. *Matthias. D. G. Rom. Im. S. A. P. F. D.*

The 16 may be the number of the year, and the two following figures perhaps, worn away. The piece, however, muſt have been coined between 1612 and 1619.

128. A gold gilder of the year 1632.

129. A gold piece, value 5 ducats, of the year 1632.

130. A gold gilder with the arms of *Hamburgh, Lubec, Lunenburg*, and *Wiſmar*; but coined at the laſt place.

You ſee, my dear friend, I have been at ſome pains in inquiring into the metallic hiſtory of this country. I only wiſh this ſpecimen may afford you as much entertainment as it has given me labour to render it exact. I ſhall return anew to prince Henry, whoſe cabinet I ſurveyed yeſterday morning. After I had ſatisfied my curioſity, I thanked his highneſs for the honour done me, and acquainted him, that the ſeaſon being ſo far advanced, I could not delay my departure any

longer, but propoſed ſetting out for Hamburg the next day, in my way to England. His highneſs expreſſed great concern that I could not ſtay the winter, but acquieſced in the reaſons I gave for the neceſſity of my departure. I then adjourned to my lodging, where I found a note from baron Zulow, informing me, that count Baſſewitz was returned from Hamburg, and would be glad to ſee me at his houſe any hour I choſe in the afternoon. I was pleaſed with the intelligence, being very deſirous of ſeeing a miniſter ſo greatly reſpected and beloved. I dined at court, and acquainted the princeſſes and the reſt of the company with my intention of ſetting out the next day for Hamburg. They all ſhewed great concern, and princeſs Ulrica in particular, who objected againſt the time of year, and preſſed me very much to ſtay the whole winter. But this was impoſſible. There was to be an aſſembly that evening at baron Forſtener's, to which I had a very kind invitation from that nobleman.

At four o'clock, baron Zulow called upon me in his coach, to conduct me to count Baſſewitz. The reception I met with from this excellent perſonage was moſt polite and engaging. He is rather of a low ſtature, round-faced, and pitted with the ſmall-pox: but he has a briſk eye, and a very ſenſible phyſiognomy. He ſeems to be between fifty and ſixty, and is univerſally reckoned a man

of conſummate abilities. The duke has a great confidence in him, entruſting him with the chief department of government, which he diſcharges with equal wiſdom and probity. We drank coffee, and diſcourſed together about two hours. The ſubject of our diſcourſe was the preſent ſtate of Mecklenburg. He was very free and open, and ſeemed to be deſirous of communicating any intelligence that might be of uſe towards my Hiſtory. Among other things he mentioned the difficulty of new manufactures, on account of the high price of labour, for want of hands, which would make the goods come dearer than they had them from the Pruſſians. He lamented the great diſcouragement to commerce from the prejudices of the nobility, who are ſatisfied with living as their forefathers, and want no farther improvements. When I talked to him about the violence of the Pruſſians in the late war, he promiſed to give me a detail of their outrages, and to furniſh me with ſome other papers and books relating to the hiſtory of this country, which he has ſince performed. At the ſame time he told me, that the money for paying off the remainder of the Hanoverian mortgage was ready, and depoſited in the bank of Amſterdam. Thus the time paſſed till ſix, when I acquainted his excellency that I was engaged to baron Forſtener's aſſembly: he ſmiled, and ſaid his wife and he were en-

gaged there alſo, and we ſhould go together. The houſe is ſpacious, convenient, and elegantly furniſhed. The company was exceeding brilliant. Princeſs Ulrica played at ombre with colonel Both and another nobleman. I had the honour of making one at quadrille with prince Lewis, mademoiſelle Chambeaux, and the marſhal of the court. I believe I told you before, that there is no eating or drinking at theſe aſſemblies; nothing but cards, like our routs and drums. At nine we broke up, and I ſupped at court, where I was not a little affected, my departure being almoſt the only thing talked of in company. At the uſual hour we retired, and I took my final leave of baron Zulow and his lady, who were to ſet out as this morning for Ludewigs-Luſt. I have been ſo greatly indebted to this young nobleman for his civilities, that I could not bid adieu to him without the warmeſt effuſion of gratitude and concern.

The greater part of this day has been ſpent in taking leave of the nobleſſe and others, with whom I have the honour of being acquainted. The count de Flohr made me a preſent of the figures of the ducheſs and princeſs Ulrica, in plaſter of Paris, extremely well done. Miſs Wurmb made me ſign my name among the liſt of her friends, with an Engliſh ſentence, as a memorandum. Both at dinner and ſupper, princeſs Ulrica ſeemed to redouble her efforts to

to talk English, and often expreſſed her concern that ſhe was going to loſe her new maſter. After ſupper, I took my leave of their ſerene highneſſes with a very heavy heart, penetrated with a deep ſenſe of their great condeſcenſion and good-nature. Their highneſſes wiſhed me a good journey, and expreſſed their deſire of hearing of my ſafe arrival in England. I retired to my lodging, and in a few minutes two ſervants came to inquire for me, one from prince Lewis, and the other from princeſs Ulrica: the former brought me a gold watch, and the latter a large ſilver ſtandiſh, which their highneſſes deſired I would accept as a token of their regard for me. When I aſked for my bill, my landlord, with a very reſpectful bow, told me it had been already diſcharged by their ſerene highneſſes. You may imagine I was greatly ſurpriſed at ſo much politeneſs and generoſity, of which I ſhall ever retain the moſt grateful remembrance.

I am now going to bed; adieu to Mecklenburg, a country where I have been ſo agreeably and ſo generouſly entertained. I leave it with regret, and ſhall never forget the pleaſant hours I have ſpent here. To-morrow I propoſe ſetting out for Hamburg, where I hope to find a letter from you, giving me an account of your welfare, together with that of all my friends

friends in London, which will
able news to

Dear Sir,

Yours,

LETTER

Hamburg,

DEAR SON,

I Set out by myself, in a chaise
the second instant, after t
dinner at the inn, about 12
was now set in, and it freezed
hard; so that I could not mu
with a view of the country.
that between Schwerin and
a pretty good road, and a
fied with woods, hills, and
Gadebusch a little before
about sixteen miles from Sc
had a letter of recommendati
bailiff, who lives in the castle,
and met with a cordial recep
on my spending the evening
promised to shew me the

place. I knew there were curiosities to be seen, and therefore accepted of his invitation.

Gadebusch is a small town belonging to the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, situated on the river Radegast. The name signifies *Lacus*, or *Saltus Dei*, the *Gods grove*; an idol having been erected here, in a wood, for the worship of Radegast, the god of the Obotrites. The town is built partly on a hill, and the houses are but indifferent. The church is an ancient gothic building, very dark, and remarkable for a piece of metal in the window of the west end, which is said to have been a fragment of the idol Radegast. The window is of a round shape, in the form of a rose; and such windows having been commonly made in the west end of the ancient churches, from thence took the name of Western Roses. Some pretend that it is a fragment of king Radegast's crown; but this is all conjecture. The baptismal font is also said to be of the same metal. In this church lies interred the famous Albert of Mecklenburg, king of Sweden, who was deposed by Margaret Waldemar, the Semiramis of the North. After his abdication, he spent the remainder of his days in the duchy of Mecklenburg, and was buried here in 1394. Over his tomb are two pictures, one representing him as king, the other as duke. The castle is seated on a hill, but contains nothing remarkable.

able. Almoſt at the foot of the
river Radegaſt, which takes its ri
bourhood, and runs from henc
to Daſſaw. Having ſurveyed
the town, I went to view
ing field of battle where the
feated by the Swedes under
bock, Dec. 20, 1712. Not f
buſch is a village named Rad
ther called Wackenſtadt, near
the above action.

After I had dined with the
for Ratzeburg, a town ſixtee
from Gadebuſch. I ſoon came
ry of the duke of Mecklenburg
minions, and entered thoſe of t
litz, who is ſovereign of the
Ratzeburg. The road is pretty
a champaign country. The d
on this ſide are very much inc
king's electoral dominions; an
upon the road to aſcertain
boundaries. I reached Ratzebu
paſſed over a long wooden b
lake, contiguous to the town
carried me to a good inn,
with ſome Hamburg merchants
tremely well. The next morni
times, and took a view of the

Ratzeburg is ſaid to have taken its name from Razzo, prince of Rugen, who deſtroyed the city of Lubeck in 1139. It is a handſome town, ſituated on a hill, in the midſt of a lake of the ſame name. The ſtreets are regularly laid out, and moſt of the houſes built in the Dutch taſte. The town has a communication by water with Lubeck, which renders it a place of ſome trade. The greater part of Ratzeburg is ſubject to the elector of Hanover, as duke of Saxe Lawenburg. The quarter annexed to the principality contains the cathedral, with ſome buildings belonging to the duke of Strelitz, particularly the apartments for the mint, and thoſe for holding the courts of eccleſiaſtic and civil juriſdiction. The cathedral was built by his majeſty's illuſtrious anceſtor, Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony and Bavaria. Here I ſaw the ſilver images of Chriſt and the apoſtles, the magnificent altar, and the beautiful choir, under which are the tombs of the dukes of Saxe Lawenburg. The Palmberg is a large handſome ſquare, adorned with pleaſant walks of lime-trees: at the end of this ſquare ſtands the duke's palace, where his premier counſellor for the principality reſides. The bridge, on the Mecklenburg ſide, is in length above four hundred paces, and coſt upwards of 10,000 rixdollars; the inhabitants are obliged to keep it in repair.

I left

I left Ratzeburg about eleven in the forenoon, and travelling through a wood, reached Trittau between three and four. The country ſeemed very indifferent and moory. Trittau is a ſmall village belonging to the duke of Holſtein Gottorp, eighteen miles diſtant from Ratzeburg. I alighted at a mean inn, and my entertainment was very indifferent. Between four and five I parted from Trittau, and paſſing through a wretched country, full of fens, and poorly inhabited, between ſeven and eight I reached the pretty village of Horn, in the neighbourhood of Hamburg. I fixed my quarters for that night in the village, where I had very good accommodation, and the next morning early I haſtened into Hamburg.

As ſoon as I had pitched my tent in this city, I went to wait upon my good friend M. Matthias, who was glad to ſee me. He kept me to dinner, and gave me ſome of his good old claret, and I in return gave him an account of my adventures. It continued to ſnow very hard, and the weather was growing every day more ſevere. There was a ſhip at this time in the river bound for London; which made me determine to go by ſea, rather than travel over land. While we were waiting for a fair wind, I reſolved to amuſe myſelf as well as I could, and in the evening went to ſee a French play acted

acted by a company of comedians who had been engaged by the Daniſh court, and were here in their way to Copenhagen. The houſe was not half full, owing, as I was told, to the impertinence of theſe ſtrollers in demanding double prices. The tragedy was Hypermneſtra; Danaus by M. Deſchamps; Lynceus by M. Chevalier, and Hypermneſtra by Mademoiſelle Le Clerc. Their action was tolerable, but their voices ſo very low that I could ſcarcely hear them. But indeed I am no great friend to French tragedies; the monotony of their recitation is infinitely tireſome; and there is ſomething very unnatural to hear heroes and heroines declaiming in rhime. To make amends for the bad tragedy, there was a ſprightly entertainment, called the *Laitiere*, or Milk-maid, a comic opera. M. Dineſi ſang extremely well, and acted with humour. The play was over at eight, when we adjourned to the aſſembly at the Engliſh bowling-green. The company was very numerous, conſiſting of the flower of Hamburg, beſides the gentlemen of the factory. The entertainment was elegant, and every thing conducted with the greateſt regularity and decorum.

The next morning I waited on M. Hanbury, who invited me to dinner. I inquired after M. Woodford, and was ſorry to hear of his being

ing

ing confined at his country ho
the misfortune of ſpraining h
little converſation with M. H
bled about the town, till I ſtu
Coſmopolite coffee-houſe, where
to find my old friend captai
mentioned to you once before
his ſtentorean abilities. He w
from Copenhagen, and expre
eſt ſatisfaction at ſeeing me
Hamburg. But I dreaded re
quaintance with him, remembe
I had been incommoded la
therefore took myſelf away as
could. M. Matthias and baron
of the company at M. Hanbu
were treated with ſuch polite
gave an additional reliſh to
ment. M. Hanbury is the gent
up the elegant addreſs pr
queen, when the factory of H
on her majeſty at Stade.
tleman has juſt now for
which will be of great ſervi
of this city, and of the Engli
ticular. This is to eſtabliſh
Holland, for forwarding the
Hamburg, as ſoon as the
Helvoetſluys. For want of
the Dutch have an oppor
early intelligence by two

them it is impossible on the present footing to have a theatre at Hamburg.

We were all to spend the evening, by invitation, at Mr. Walter's, the syndic. This worthy gentleman embraced me with the cordiality of a brother, and I was equally glad to see him and his good family. There were only a few select friends; we were entertained with an elegant supper; the company were remarkably chearful; M. Wagener favoured us with some of his good old songs; and upon the whole I spent a very happy evening.

The wind continuing in the west, and consequently contrary for England, Mr. Hanbury gave me an invitation to his country-house, at a village called Eimsbuttel, about two miles out of town. I accepted of his kind offer; and we set out together in his coach, along with M. Wagener. We got thither a little before one; and while we were waiting for dinner, Mr. Hanbury was so polite as to shew me his house. It stands at a small distance from the high road, with a pretty neat garden in front, and another behind, which prevent its being incommoded by the dust. The house is almost square, and of no very regular architecture; but has been altered by Mr. Hanbury, so as to make a handsome appearance. The inside is really *simplex munditiis*, but neat

heat beyond expression; the apartment modious, and furnished in taste. I shall you to see the elegance with which the the gardens, and the very stables are fi would pronounce this villa a nonpareil; sure they have none such in this part world. Here I spent three of the most able days in my whole life, entertai berally, and gratified with every ci could wish. To complete the scene day the 8th of December was M bury's birth-day, when we had the c of some of his friends from Hamburg, whom were M. Matthias, M. Walter, ingenious Dr. Ross. It would take much time to detail the particulars happy day; suffice it to tell you, t entertainment was as elegant as our care in commemorating the nativity worthy host.

Early the next morning the wind w about to the east, which was fair for E and we returned to town. But unfo ly it had frozen so hard all night, a heavy snows had fallen for some days, Elbe was full of floating islands of ice rendered the navigation impracticable. it was then my destiny to travel by la without farther repining resigned m the decrees of heaven.

I had a very great inclination to take the road of Hanover, having recommendations to that court, as I mentioned to you before, from prince Charles, the queen's brother; but, upon conſideration that this might be productive of delay, I denied myſelf that pleaſure, and reſolved to go by Bremen. My next ſtep was to look out for company; and, upon inquiring at the coffee-houſe, I found three gentlemen, who deſigned to ſet out in two or three days for Amſterdam. Two of them were Dutch captains of ſhips, M. Jaſper Coen, and M. Jottie Ottes; the third was an Italian merchant, Signor Gargallo, lately come from Riga. I had an interview with thoſe gentlemen, and finding their characters unexceptionable, I offered to join company, which was readily accepted. We agreed to hire a coach to Bremen, and the day fixed for our departure was the 12th inſtant. This point being ſettled, I went to dine by invitation with my worthy friend the Rev. Mr. Vaughan, chaplain to the factory. I paſſed the afternoon very agreeably with this gentleman, to whom I am greatly obliged for all his civilities. The evening I ſpent at Dreyer's coffee-houſe, with my three fellow-travellers, and had the pleaſure of finding them very agreeable. Signor Gargallo is about forty, a man of ſenſe, who has ſeen the world; he was

born

born at Naples, but ſpeaks French and German. Captain Coen lives at Delft; his ſhip is now at Hamburg, but as it cannot ſet ſail for ſome time, he is going to ſee his wife. He is forty-five, and ſpeaks pretty good Engliſh. Captain Ottes lives in North Holland, and is a young man not above thirty. They ſeem to be obliging and good-natured, ſo that I promiſe myſelf much ſatisfaction in their company.

I ſpent two days in the melancholy buſineſs of taking leave of my friends, and particularly of Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Matthias. The cold growing every day more intenſe, I thought it neceſſary to ſecure myſelf againſt the weather by a warmer cloathing. I therefore had my great coat well lined with furs, and bought a furred cap, with a cape which came quite round my ſhoulders. To keep my feet and legs warm, I had a ſort of boots, made of lamb-ſkin with the wool turned inſide, which came over my ſhoes and ſtockings, and almoſt up to my waiſt. Thus I was equipped to travel in Siberia, and made a droll figure, not unlike that of Robinſon Cruſoe. The evening before my departure I ſpent with M. Matthias, at his houſe, with the additional ſatisfaction of my good friend baron Marconnay's company. After a moſt ſocial evening I took my laſt farewel of them, and retired with a very heavy

heart to my lodging. The greateſt hardſhip travellers undergo, is not the badneſs of roads or accommodations, but the frequent ſeparation from thoſe they love.

Thus all things are diſpoſed for my winter's campaign. I propoſe ſetting out to-morrow in the forenoon, with my companions, for Bremen, and from thence to Amſterdam, where I intend to make but a ſhort ſtay, being impatient to ſet foot once more in old England.

Adieu.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XXIII.

Amſterdam, Dec. 27. 1766.

DEAR SIR,

AT length, thanks to Providence, I am landed ſafe at Amſterdam, after the fatigue and anxiety of a moſt perilous voyage. This intelligence, I am ſenſible, will ſound like a paradox to you, whom I had acquainted in my laſt, that I propoſed to ſet out for Amſterdam by land, in company with three agreeable gentlemen. My information was exact; but how I came afterwards to commit myſelf, at this ſeaſon, to the fury of the boiſterous

ocean,

ocean, you will find at the end of this letter.

I left Altona from Hamburg in a coach and four early in the morning, the 24th inſtant, in company with the two Dutch captains, M. Coen and M. Ottes, and the Italian merchant, Signor Gargallo. It froze very hard, and the Elbe was almoſt frozen over, ſo that the lofty banks of that river, which in a fine ſeaſon are ſo delightful, afforded now a moſt dreary and uncomfortable proſpect. We paſſed through Altena, and ſoon came to Neuſtadt, a very pretty village. By ten o'clock we reached Blackeneſe, a fiſhing-hamlet on the banks of the Elbe, eight miles from Hamburg. At this place is a ferry to croſs over from the duchy of Holſtein to that of Bremen. The banks of the Elbe on the ſide of Blackeneſe are very ſteep. We found the paſſage difficult, the wind being contrary, and the river clogged with huge flakes of floating ice. Beſides, the ferry is hardly big enough for a wheel-carriage. You may judge of the embarraſſment we were under, from our being two hours in croſſing, where the river is no more than one mile in breadth. After we had reached the other ſide, we had to clamber up a dike near fifteen feet high, by the help of ſome hurdles, which are placed there to ſtrengthen it, and ſerve for a ladder. My travelling-dreſs was cumberſome to ſuch a

a degree, that without the assistance of my companions, I believe I should not have been able to surmount the difficulty. Here we got into our coach again and drove to Crantz, a neighbouring village in the duchy of Bremen, and noted for the conflux of the Elbe with the little river Este, which comes down from Buxtehude. Crantz is built on a high bank to resist the overflowing of the river, which at some spring tides overflows the land on the other side of the dike. From the banks of the Elbe to Buxtehude the distance is six English miles, thro' a detestable road, especially at this time of year. The soil is said to be fruitful enough; but the country, which chiefly consists of meadows and corn-lands, is very low, and the fields divided by deep ditches. The road is every where bordered with willows, or other trees; and in many places has been raised so high, that the overturning of a carriage would be exceeding dangerous. For this reason our coachman advised us several times to light. This I complied with three or four times; but, from the weight of my habiliments, it fatigued me to such a degree, that I was no longer able to walk; and told my companions, that I would trust in Providence, and rather run the risk of breaking my neck in the coach, than expire under the fatigue of walking. Half

way

way between the Elbe and Buxtehude, we paſſed a bridge on the Eſſe, at a large village called Eſſebrugge, and did not reach Buxtehude till noon, though our carriage was not heavy, and we had four ſtout horſes.

Buxtehude is a ſmall town in the duchy of Bremen, ſituated on the river Eſſe, which comes out of the duchy of Lunenburg. The adjacent country is ſaid to be very fruitful, and to ſupply Hamburg with great part of its proviſions. The town is pretty well built, with broad ſtreets, and encompaſſed with a ditch and old walls. We ſtaid there to dine, and met with good accommodations at the poſt-houſe. My companions were very chearful, and good-humoured; no ſlight comfort in ſo fatiguing a journey. We had taken ſome proviſions with us; but finding tolerable accommodations at this houſe, it was judged proper to reſerve our own ſtock for an emergency. Our ſtay was but very ſhort at Buxtehude; for a little after two the horſes were put to, and we ſet out for Cloſter-Seven, fifteen miles farther, where we intended to lodge that night. The road to Cloſter-Seven is but very indifferent, and the country poorly inhabited, conſiſting chiefly of woods and heath. We ſtopped a little while at the village of Armſhoff, about half way, and did not reach Cloſter-Seven till eight o'clock.

Clofter Seven is a pleaſant village, ſurrounded by a fine wood of oak trees. It was formerly a famous monaſtery, which gave name to the place, and has been lately remarkable for the treaty between the Hanoverian and Frenchmanies. The church is ſaid to be very handſome; but we came too late to ſee it. Our inn, I am ſure, was no way handſome, being only a large barn, called the poſt-houſe. Such are the inns on the road all over the duchy of Bremen, and the circle of Weſtphalia. Our coachman drove directly into a large entrance, which is the only door, and the only outlet for the ſmoke. There is but one large room, which ſerves for ſtable, kitchen, parlour, and bed-chamber. On each ſide we ſaw cows, horſes, ſwine, and ſheep. In ſhort, it looked like Noah's ark, filled with all manner of live beaſts. In the middle of the room there was a pretty good fire of turf and wood, a moſt comfortable circumſtance in ſuch ſevere weather. At firſt we were almoſt blinded with the ſmoke, but after we had eaten a bit of ſupper, drawn from our own ſtore, and drunk a glaſs of wine, we began to be chearful. Signor Gargalini is an excellent companion; the Dutch captains were very good humoured and obliging; ſo that, amidſt the hardſhip of bad roads, bad weather, and worſe accommodations, we paſſed our evening in tolerable good

[redacted]

spirits. At supper we asked for some of their bread called Pompernickel, which is really a curiosity. It is made of rye coarsely ground, with all the bran left in it, so that it looks as black as a coal. They cut it with a hatchet from a large loaf of at least a bushel, and presented it to us on a trencher. The name is said to have been given to it by a Frenchman travelling this way, who, when this coarse bread was brought to table, said, *Ça n'étoit bon pour Nicole*, which was the name of his horse. This bread nevertheless is said to be very wholesome, and they begin now to use it even at polite tables, where I have seen it served up in small slices with fresh butter. After we had refreshed ourselves in the best manner we could, Signor Gargallo favoured us with an Italian song, and then we laid ourselves down very quietly on our beds of straw. I had been so tired with my walk, that I slept as well as if I had been in a down bed. Early the next morning we were awaked with the noise of the hogs grunting on one side, and the cows champing their straw on the other; but it was a proper time to rise, and after we had regaled ourselves with coffee, we resumed our journey.

Travelling through a flat country, dismally marshy, by eleven o'clock we reached Otterberg, twelve miles from Cloter-Seven, and half way to Bremen. I have been told that the large

large moors about Ottersberg are very beneficial to the proprietors; and that in the article of turf only, they, and the owners of the moors of Ottenholth, ſell annually to the city of Bremen to the value of 18,000 dollars. The moor-grounds alſo afford good paſture, when the rivers have ceaſed to overflow their banks. We approached Ottersberg by a large paved road, and a long avenue ſet with willows. It is a ſmall town of the duchy of Bremen, ſituated on the river Wemme, and tolerably well built. Here is an old caſtle, formerly the reſidence of the archbiſhop of Bremen. The town being ſurrounded by a moraſs, is naturally ſtrong; but the fortifications are old, and at preſent quite neglected. We ſtopped to dine, and met with pretty good entertainment at the poſt-houſe. The roads growing worſe every day, by the great fall of ſnow, we were in a hurry to get away, and by one the horſes were put to. The country round Ottersberg is full of canals, or branches of the river Wemme, which intermingle one with another. The road to Bremen is very ſandy, and the country not much improved, till you come near Bremen: here, indeed, we ſaw ſeveral country-houſes and boxes, which with their gardens made a chearful appearance of wealth and elegance. We reached Bremen by five o'clock, and ſet at the beſt inn in the town, the King of [illegible]'s head.

Here

Here we ſtaid two days, partly to refreſh ourſelves after our fatigue, in the interim conſulting how to proceed the remainder of our journey. It continued to ſnow all the time very hard, ſo that the roads were grown almoſt impaſſable. I was for going by Oſnabrug, and all through Weſtphalia; but the Dutch captains objected againſt the badneſs of the accommodations, and inſiſted that we ſhould have better entertainment and better roads, were we to travel through Friſeland, and embark at the Lemmer for Amſterdam. Beſides, they knew the country, and being natives of Holland, they ſhould be better able to conduct us, when we reached the Dutch dominions. Theſe reaſons appeared ſatisfactory to Signor Gargallo, ſo that I was obliged to yield to the majority. We amuſed ourſelves thoſe two days in viewing the town, which deſerves a traveller's notice.

Bremen is a large flouriſhing city, ſituated in a great plain, on both ſides of the river Weſer, which are joined by a bridge 168 paces in length. It is ſurrounded by fortifications of no great ſtrength, and has a garriſon of 600 men. The ramparts are planted with rows of trees, and afford a pleaſant proſpect of the river and adjacent country. The part on the ſouth ſide of the Weſer is called the New Town, and conſiſts chiefly of gardens and villas. The ſtreets here are wider, and more regular than in the Old Town. The latter ſtands

on the north ſide of the river, and is the centre of commerce. Here are ſeveral good houſes, eſpecially near the great market-place, which is a handſome ſquare.

Bremen is a free imperial city, governed by its own magiſtrates; but the duchy is ſubject to our king, as elector of Hanover. The eſtabliſhed religion is that of Calvin, though the Lutherans are nearly equal. The town is governed by four burgomaſters, and twenty-four ſenators, who form a kind of ariſtocracy.

The chief buildings in Bremen are the cathedral, the gymnaſium or academy, the town-houſe, and the exchange. The cathedral is an ancient ſtately pile, and belongs to the Lutherans. It is famous for a vault underneath, called the Bleykeller, or Lead-cellar, where ſeveral bodies were found uncorrupted above fifty years ago. Their ſkins look black and ſhrivelled, yet one may eaſily diſcern their features. The linnen in which they were interred, is as light as tinder. The vault is about ſix feet below the ſurface of the earth, under an arch eight or nine feet high. I have heard various conjectures concerning the cauſe which has preſerved thoſe bodies from corruption; but none of them proved ſatisfactory. No other bodies, however, are ſuffered to be depoſited in that vault. There are ſeveral other churches in this city, but no way remarkable. The gymnaſium was

once

once greatly frequented, but i
decline; it has, however, a ver
The town-house is a large Gothi
in 1405, and adorned on the
veral statues of the emperc
The courts of justice are extre
the lower part, or hall, is fill
shops. Under the town-hou
cellar or vault, kept for the
Here we spent the second ev
room, with some of the citi
very good company. The
wine in this place is amazing
different growths and ages, f
fifty, sixty, or more. They ke
casks, being improved by th
quantity in one body, and the
portioned to its age. My frien
had like to have drawn him
with some of the company,
well-known distich upon th
seeing this great hoard of Ba

Germani possunt cunctos tale
O utinam possent tam ben

But he got off by making an
claring it was not his int
The exchange, hard by, is an
a piazza and shops, but noth
tiful. Near the bridge, are

works, by which the town is supplied from the Weser, and here also is a most ingenious fulling-mill. The armoury, the hospital, the work-house, and the anatomical theatre, are worth seeing.

In the middle of the market-place stands an old gigantic effigy, 14 feet high, such as one frequently meets with in several imperial cities. The vulgar imagine them to have been erected in honour of Rowland, a supposed nephew of Charlemain, which Rowland they also imagine to have been of a gigantic stature. Hence they now call them *Rowland seulen*, *Statuæ Rolandinæ*, or Rowland's Statues; and most travellers and historians have swallowed this absurd romantic story. But the truth is, that *Rowland seulen* is a corruption of the original name *Rugelands seulen*, from *Rugen*, which, in German, signifies to judge. Those statues denote, that the cities in which they have been erected, are municipal, governed by their own laws, and possessed of a judiciary power. Besides, these statues are not of a more ancient date than the end of the tenth, and commencement of the eleventh centuries.

Bremen is not above twelve German miles from the sea, but ships of burthen cannot come within two miles of the town, for oftentimes there is not above four feet water. On this account they have a custom-house six miles below Bremen, where ships are unloaded, and the goods brought up in flat-bottomed vessels. Their

traffick

traffick is very conſiderable, eſpecially with England, whither they ſend all ſorts of Weſtphalia linens, receiving in return a great quantity of tobacco and other Weſt India commodities, with ſome of our woolen manufactures. They likewiſe import a conſiderable quantity of ſugar and wines from France. They have a very great inland trade with Hanover, Saxony, Sileſia, Bohemia, &c. from whence they receive linen, timber, corn, and minerals. In dreſſing of leather and cloth they are ſaid to be particularly ſkilful; and the fiſh which they catch at ſea and in the Weſer is another good article. In ſhort, their commerce is in a flouriſhing ſtate, ſo that the merchants make a conſiderable figure. They have a great number of gardens and villas round the town. The territory of the city extends about eight or ten miles, abounds with good paſtures, and is well ſtocked with cattle.

Having ſeen every thing worth notice in the town, we hired another coach to carry us to Leer, in Eaſt Friſeland, about ſixty miles from Bremen. We ſet out a little after nine in the morning; and by eleven reached Delmenhorſt, a ſmall town in the circle of Weſtphalia, and capital of a county, belonging to his Daniſh majeſty. The town is ſituated on the little river Delme, from whence it takes its name. It conſiſts of one long ſtreet, with pretty good houſes. Here we made but a very ſhort

ſtay,

ſtay, to refreſh the horſes, and our Dutch captains comforted themſelves with a copious dram. This they did regularly every time the coachman ſtopped for the ſame purpoſe. From thence we proceeded to Oldenburg, capital of a county of that name, and likewiſe ſubject to the crown of Denmark. This country is ſaid to be pretty fruitful in ſome parts, eſpecially about Oldenburg; but the deep covering of ſnow prevented our judging of the nature of the ſoil. The horſes here, and in Eaſt Friſeland, are reckoned amongſt the beſt in Germany. We reached Oldenburg by five o'clock, and ſet up at an inn in the market-place, where every thing turned out to our ſatisfaction, except the troubleſome civility of the landlord and his wife, who were both moſt abominably intoxicated. We reſolved to go no farther that night, and it being moon-light, and the ſnow abated, we took a turn round the town.

Oldenburg is the capital of a county of that name, in the circle of Weſtphalia, pleaſantly ſituated on the little river Hunte, which falls into the Weſer. The town is very old, and the houſes moſtly of wood; but the ſtreets wide and well laid out. The caſtle, or palace was built in 1616, of fine free-ſtone, and is reckoned a pretty good edifice; but we had not an opportunity of ſeeing it. There was formerly a good library in this caſtle, with ſeveral

rural curiosities, and among others, the famous horn of Oldenburg; but they have all been removed to Copenhagen. The horn above mentioned is said to be of silver gilt, and weighs four pounds. In this castle also resides the Danish governor of the county, with the title of king's stadtholder. The old counts of Oldenburg kept their residence in this town; and I need not tell you, that from those counts the present king of Denmark is lineally descended.

After a good night's repose, we set out the next morning before day, in order to reach Leer that night, which is distant thirty-five miles from Oldenburg. The snow was abated, but it freezed exceeding hard; so that with all our precautions we could scarce keep ourselves warm. We took provisions with us for the day, being told we should fare but very disagreeably till we got to Leer. The greatest part of the way is through a barren sandy country, with dreary heaths and morasses. But the snow being somewhat hardened by the frost, we began to move on with greater expedition than the day before. By ten, we arrived at Blexhuse, a miserable village, and breakfasted at the post-house. From Oldenburg to Blexhuse is twelve miles. The next stage was the village of Grotsander, on the frontier of East Friseland, a province belonging to the king of Prussia. We got there by half an hour after two, and dined at the post-house,

here ſqueeſed we ſhould have experienced what we were told at Oldenburg, had it not been for our own proviſions. The county of Oldenburg, and the principality of Eaſt Friſeland, both in the circle of Weſtphalia, from thence alone you may judge of the nature of our accommodations, eſpecially in country villages, for you have often heard theſe lines:

Hoſpitium vile, grob brodt, dick bier, lange mylen
*Sunt in Weſtphalia, ſi non vis credere loon daar.**

The country people are extremely civil and obliging; but the ſeveral circumſtances of their extreme poverty and dirt, exhibit an affecting picture of human miſery. Such ſpectacles as theſe (and they are not confined to Weſtphalia) make me doubt very much of the truth of Rochefoucault's maxim: *Quelque difference, qui paroiſſe entre les fortunes, il y a neanmoins une certaine compenſation de biens & de maux qui les rend egales.* The Dutch captains made a beverage of beer, brandy, and eggs, which, in that ſevere weather, proved very comfortable. The diſtance between Blexhuſs and Grotſander is ten miles. We had ſtill thirteen

* In Weſtphalia you have bad inns, coarſe bread, muddy beer, and long miles; if you don't believe me, go and ſee.

miles to Leer, where we arrived by eight o'clock: and let up at the sign of the Prince of Orange, a house of pretty good accommodation.

Leer is a handsome market-town in East Friseland, situated on the little river Leda, which, at a quarter of a league from thence, falls into the Ems. This situation renders it pleasant, and is productive of some trade. The town is built after the Dutch manner, the houses not high, but clean and neat, the streets wide and regular. The neighbouring country deals considerably in horses, the East Friseland breed being greatly esteemed.

The next morning, early, we took a turn about the town, whilst breakfast was preparing; and after a good deal of inquiry could get no other carriage to a place called Nieuschanz, on the Dutch frontier, than an open waggon. Our coachman would carry us no further, though we offered him the most advantageous terms. From Leer to Nieuschanz is ten miles, and the road, especially in winter, excessive bad. It was a terrible mortification to us all, to think we must travel, in such weather, in an open carriage; and poor Signor Gargallo lamented his hard fate in being condemned to perish miserably amidst the snows of East Friseland.

We set off in the morning about ten, and

ſoon reached the river Ems, but found an immenſe difficulty to get to the oppoſite bank. The Ems riſes in the biſhoprick of Paderborn, and running through the county of Riſberg, the biſhopric of Munſter, and the principality of Eaſt Friſeland, diſcharges itſelf into the Dollart bay, at the city of Embden. This river was full of floating ice, which rendered the paſſage ſo dangerous, that the maſter of the ferry refuſed at firſt to carry us over. At length, great perſuaſion, and upon our paying a very extraordinary freight, he conſented to venture, but would take no more than two of our horſes, for fear of overloading the wherry. Having got our clumſy voiture into the boat (and an Herculean labour it was) we put off under all theſe diſagreeable, and I may ſay, terrifying circumſtances. We had not got above half half way when a floating iſland came down upon us with all its weight, and broke the rope by which the men worked the ferry; ſo that we were left to the mercy of the ice, and an impetuous current. The conſternation was great, leſt we ſhould be kept all day upon the river, and thus be frozen to death or ſtarved. But providentially the maſs of ice drove us near the banks, when the country people aſſembling together, came to aſſiſt us with cords and planks, and with great difficulty dragged us aſhore, in a moſt piteous plight.

plight. After we had given thanks to the Supreme for our preſervation, we got into our waggon, but were obliged to proceed with two horſes only; for the ferrymen would not venture to bring over the others. This misfortune occaſioned a delay of very near two hours, ſo that we did not get to Nieuſchantz till paſt two o'clock. About half way between the two places is Wender, a neat little town, built intirely in the Dutch taſte. The country, as we paſſed along, ſeemed to be well inhabited, and to exhibit a greater appearance of plenty and cultivation, than we had ſeen in any other part of Eaſt Friſeland.

Nieuſchantz is a Dutch word, ſignifying a *new fort*; it ſtands on the very extremity of the province of Groningen, and commands the paſſage into Eaſt Friſeland. The fort is regular, but with only one ſtreet, conſiſting of a few mean houſes. Without the gate is a very handſome inn, where we were well accommodated. The Dutch captains had flattered themſelves with the notion, that we ſhould be able to proceed in the treck-ſcoot, which ſets out every day for Groningen. But I had entertained no ſuch hopes, conſidering the ſeverity of the weather; in fact, the canal was frozen up, ſo as to obſtruct all paſſage by water. I ſhould have been very glad to tarry at Nieuſchantz till the next day, in order to recover myſelf after ſo much danger and fatigue; but captain Coen perſuaded us to take a carriage immedi-

ately after dinner; and as it was moon light, and the road very good, to travel by night to Groningen, which is distant from Nieuschantz about thirty miles. We were forced to put up with another waggon, though of a more commodious construction than those in Germany; still it was an open carriage, and the frost intense. We left Nieuschantz a little after two; but instead of a good road, it proved a most detestable one upwards of four leagues. As we advanced, we found every where that neatness for which the Dutch are so conspicuous. Indeed the country seemed to be all a garden, diversified with meadows, corn-lands, and plantations of trees. The industry of the natives shewed itself most visibly in the dikes, or banks, thrown up along the roads, to prevent inundations. We passed very near the sea, and saw several villages and corn-fields, which, within these twenty years, had been taken in from the main ocean. The boors were all uniformly clad in dark brown frize coats; the women wore prominent caps like bonnets, no aprons, but black coarse cloth, or lindsey-woolsey; and the countenances of both men and women spoke vigour and chearfulness. We stopped twice by the way for refreshment, and came at length to a turnpike road, by the canal of Groningen. The turnpike is a handsome iron gate, and looks like the entrance of a gentleman's garden. We

changed

changed horses half way, drank some hot pot, which the severity of the weather rendered necessary, and by one in the morning we reached the suburbs of Groningen. The gates being shut, we lay at a very good inn, near the town walls, well known to our postilion. I need not tell you, that we took care to refresh ourselves, and that good beds were very agreeable after so long and painful a journey.

The next morning our first business was to see in what manner we could get to the Lemmer, a small sea-port on the Zuyder sea, from whence a passage-boat sails every day for Amsterdam. But, to our great mortification, the passage to the Lemmer was quite obstructed, the canals being all frozen, and the road by land impassable, on account of the quantity of ice and snow with which the country was overspread. We then asked, whether there was any possibility of getting to Zwoll, through the bishopric of Munster; but the roads to that country were also impracticable; so that we seemed to be locked in as fast as if we had been in Siberia. I now began to repent my quitting Mecklenburg till spring; and Signor Gargallo repined at his having left Italy at all to come so far, as he termed it, into the Frigid Zone. I inquired whether there was no possibility of getting sledges, but found they are not used to this method of travelling

velling at preſent, which I wonder at, having read that Morriſon travelled this way in a ſledge the 30th of Oct. 1592. We thought we ſhould be obliged to winter at Groningen, that is, to ſtay till the froſt was over, which might be a month or ſix weeks. In this diſtreſs we continued two days, during which we amuſed ourſelves with ſeeing the city.

Groningen is the capital of the province of that name in the United Netherlands, ſituated three leagues from the ſea, at the confluence of two little rivers, the Aa and Hunnes. Some think it takes its name from the fine verdure in the neighbourhood. The harbour is commodious, the ſhips entering the town by means of a large beautiful canal, with quays on each ſide. The town is of a round figure, encompaſſed with high earthen ramparts, and deep wet ditches. It is large and populous. The ſtreets are remarkably neat and regular, the houſes moſtly in a ſtraight line, and well built. There are ſeven gates, and three large market-places. The chief church, dedicated to St. Martin, is a ſightly ſtructure, with a very lofty ſteeple. The great ſquare is one of the handſomeſt in the United Provinces, being 179 paces in length, ſomewhat leſs in breadth, with ſeventeen fine ſtreets branching from it. The town-houſe, the exchange, and the weigh-houſe, add to its beauty. At the end of the fiſh-market

is the church of Our Lady, an elegant building. The univerſity in this town was founded by the States General in 1614, and has a very good library. In one of the chambers at the prince's palace, on the north ſide of the city, are the pictures of all the princes of Orange and counts of Naſſau, and near the palace is a handſome garden. The magiſtrates conſiſt of four burgomaſters and twelve ſenators.

The 18th inſtant in the evening it began to thaw, when we had ſome hopes that the canal of Lewarden would be opened again, eſpecially as there had been men at work all day to break the ice. We were not deceived in our expectations; for the next morning, after breakfaſt, news was brought us, that, with the utmoſt difficulty, a paſſage was made through the ice, and the treck-ſcoot would ſet out about eleven for Lewarden, diſtant from Groningen forty-three miles. This indeed was moſt joyful intelligence, and we ſet off at the appointed hour. It ſnowed very hard, and the country had a moſt diſmal aſpect. The treck-ſcoot, in the beſt of ſeaſons, moves but very ſlowly, at about three miles an hour; but, in ſuch terrible weather, you may judge that our motion was ſtill more tardy. However, we had a comfortable cabbin to ourſelves, and plenty of refreſhments. The treck-

ſcoots,

boats, on these occasions, are armed on both sides with sharp machines of iron, to cut the obstructing ice, an operation which makes a horrid rumbling noise. Mean time Signor Gargallo entertained us with several agreeable stories, and sang some very good songs; captain Cook now and then gave us a specimen of Dutch melody. Towards night we reached Strobusch, a small town twelve miles from Groningen, and on the frontiers of Friseland. They have a great number of bridges and sluices along the canal, and the country is very fruitful. Here we made but a short stay for the people to refresh themselves, and by midnight we got to Doccum, which is about ten miles from Strobusch.

The treck-scoot being to go no farther that night, we went ashore, and lay at a pretty good house, where we were troubled with a drunken landlord. The severity of the cold is a pretext in this country for intemperance, in which they signalize themselves, drinking brandy all day long. We rested, however, pretty well, and walked about in the morning before breakfast.

Doccum is a town of the province of Friseland, situated on the river Aa, which forms a good harbour, and falls, about four miles lower, into a gulf of the German Ocean. It was formerly a place of some strength, but the fortifi-

cations are out of repair. The streets are neat and wide, as in all the Dutch towns, and the houses well built. The town-house is a handsome structure; near it is a stone bridge so wide as to serve for a market; and the arches are high enough for the vessels to pass under them with their masts standing. They have but one parish church, and their chief trade is in cheese. The neighbouring country abounds with corn and pasture, and is extremely well inhabited.

We set out about ten in the morning for Lewarden, and reached that city between one and two, being only eight miles. The country through which we passed, is one of the most populous I ever beheld. Within a little way of the town we could distinguish ten villages with handsome spires, all within two or three miles of each other. It still continued to snow, and we were afraid of the return of the frost; which, from the intense coldness of the air, seemed once more to threaten us. We went to lodge in the middle of the town, at a very good inn, well known to our fellow-travellers the Dutch captains, to whose officious care Signor Gargalin and I were greatly obliged, both here and in every other part of our journey.

Lewarden is the capital of the province of Friseland, situated within six miles of the German Ocean. The city is large and well built,

built, the ſtreets clean and regular. It is of an oblong figure, ſurrounded with good earthen ramparts, and a very broad ditch. On the ramparts are pleaſant walks, from whence we had a view of the neighbouring gardens and a well cultivated country. There are ſeveral navigable canals in different quarters of the town, which communicate with almoſt every part of the province, and enable the inhabitants to carry on a briſk trade with Hamburg, Bremen, Embden, and Holland. The magiſtrates conſiſt of three burgomaſters, and nine aldermen. The town-houſe is a handſome ſtructure, the firſt ſtone of which was laid the 2d of April 1715; over the door are theſe words, *Pace et Juſtitia.* The princes of Orange have alſo an elegant palace in this city; this was their uſual reſidence, before the revolution in 1747, when the preſent prince's father was choſen ſtadtholder of Holland. The principal church was built in 1487, but is no way remarkable. The church of St. Vitus was demoliſhed in 1580, and there ſtill remains the ſteeple, erected long after the old church, and detached from it, in hopes of building a new one, which was never executed. This city is alſo the ſeat of the ſupreme council of the province of Friſeland, a court of very great authority. And here, by the way, I muſt take notice of a miſtake of moſt travellers, in calling this province Weſt Friſeland, whereas it

ſhould

ſhould be ſtiled Friſeland Proper. Weſt Friſeland is that part of the United Provinces, commonly called North Holland; the ſtates of Holland always ſtile themſelves of Holland and Weſt Friſeland.

We ſtaid here a day and a half, in hopes of finding ſome opportunity to proceed to the Lemmer; but it was abſolutely impracticable. In conſequence of ſeveral conſultations we determined to make the beſt of our way to Harlingen, a ſea-port in Friſeland, nine miles from hence, where we ſhould find the conveniency of a paſſage veſſel for Amſterdam. The Dutch captains were impatient to get home to their wives and children; but as Signor Gargallo and I had no ſuch inducement, we thought it more adviſable to wait a week, or a fortnight, longer at Lewarden; for the froſt was now returned with double vigour, and the ſnows fell ſo thick that people were afraid the Zuyder-ſea would be frozen over. We were governed, however, by our companions; ſo that we left Lewarden the 22d inſtant in the morning, and got to Franeker by ten. With great difficulty the canal was now kept open, and they told us it would not be navigable the day following. This prevented our ſtaying there all night, leſt our paſſage ſhould be intercepted. We dined here at a good inn, where every thing was to our ſatisfaction.

tion. The packet-boat did not set off for Harlingen very near dusk, so that we had sufficient time to view the town.

Franeker is one of the prettiest and neatest towns in Friseland, situated on two navigable canals, within four miles of Harlingen. It is small, but very well built, and the usual residence of the chief nobility of the province. There is an ancient castle here, in which the governors of the province formerly resided. The magistrates consist of six burgomasters and a secretary. But this city is renowned chiefly for its university, founded in 1585, and possessed of very great privileges. In this seat of the muses, there have been several learned professors who have done honour to it by their writings; such as Adrian Metius, Petrus Winsemus, George Pasor, Sixtus Amama, and Ulric Hubertus.

The track-boat set off from Franeker between four and five, and a little after six we reached Harlingen. Captain Coen being well acquainted with the town, carried us to an inn he had formerly frequented, the sign of the peacock. The master of the house spoke pretty good English, having lived some time in London. There was a good deal of company in the public rooms, most of them substantial burghers, and they were all sitting round a great table, drinking their brandy, as we drink wine or malt liquor

liquor in England. At my expressing a small surprize, mixed with some dislike, Captain Coen told me it was necessary to drink profusely of spirituous liquors in this country, otherwise the cold and moisture would soon destroy their constitutions. We arrived in this town the 22d, and had the satisfaction to hear that the passage-vessel would sail for Amsterdam, on Wednesday the 24th, in the morning. We passed the evening as comfortably as we could in a Dutch house, where they seldom have a good fire, and retired betimes to our respective apartments. The day following was spent in viewing the place, and taking the necessary precautions for our voyage.

Harlingen is a sea-port town of Friseland, situated almost at the mouth of the Zuyder-sea, in a country abounding with passage and all the necessaries of life. It is the largest, wealthiest, and most populous town in the whole province, next to Lewarden. So lately as the 12th century, it was only a hamlet, lying between two gentlemen's seats, one named *Harliga*, the other *Hans*, and from thence it seems to have taken its name. It was not walled in till 1343. It is of a quadrangular figure, with fair handsome streets, intersected with spacious canals. The houses are very high, and extremely neat. There are five gates to the town, four towards the land-side, and

one

one towards the harbour. The harbour is divided, within the town, into two large baſons, capable of holding veſſels of the greateſt burthen; yet they cannot come in heavy laden, but are obliged to make uſe of lighters off the bar. Though they have been at the pains of raiſing very high dikes, to ſhelter the veſſels; the ſea ſeems to gain ground, and all their ſkill and labour cannot intirely check the impetuoſity of this boiſterous element. The town-houſe is not a large building, but very neat. There are no more than two churches, Weſt Church, and St. Michael's. The magiſtrates conſiſt of eight burgomaſters, nominated annually by the ſovereign court of the province. The town has a public gymnaſium, with a rector and three profeſſors, for teaching Greek and Latin. Here are likewiſe ſeveral manufactures particularly for ſail-cloths, paper, and ſalt. Harlingen is alſo the ſeat of a court of Admiralty, for the province of Friſeland. It is compoſed of four deputies of the ſtates of this province, one of Holland, one of Gelderland, one of Utrecht, one of Overiſſel, and two of Groningen and the Ommelands, but none for Zealand; how this latter province came to be left out, nobody could tell me.

The twenty-fourth inſtant, being Chriſtmas-eve, we went a-board the paſſage veſſel about nine in the morning, and ſailed from Harlingen with a fair wind. But there was very little of

it

it on account of the ſnow, which fell in fleeces. Though the burden of our bark was 80 tuns, maſter and mate were all our complement. I was therefore very glad that, in caſe of any danger, we had two ſupernumerary hands, my friends the Dutch captains. We ſaw large flakes of ice driving with the tide; and captain Coen affirmed, that if the froſt continued much longer, the Zuyder-ſea would be frozen over. I told him, that I hoped this would not happen in our paſſage; and he anſwered me, with a ſmile, that if it did, we ſhould make a ſhift to ſkait to Amſterdam. I replied, that I knew not how to ſkait. Then, ſaid he, there is another reſource; we can get a flying-boat, that is, a veſſel contrived to ſkait, if I may ſo expreſs it, with ſails upon the ice. And ſuch veſſels, he told me, are common in Friſeland, performing the paſſage from Stavoren to Enkhuyſen, in North Holland, when the Zuyder-ſea is frozen over. We ſoon perceived the light-houſe at Stavoren, and began to be in good ſpirits, as now making ourſelves ſure of reaching Amſterdam early the next morning. Captain Coen ſaid, if the wind continued, he hoped to breakfaſt on Chriſtmas day with his mother-in-law. Mean time the weather was ſo very ſevere, that it was impoſſible to keep the deck; beſides, the horror of the ſcene could afford no ſort of pleaſure to the eye. An high ſea, however, is ſometimes a pleaſing

object to me; but it is when on *terra firma*, according to Lucretius, *Suave mari magno, &c.*

'Tis pleasant, when the seas are rough, to stand
And view another's danger, safe at land:
Not 'cause he's troubled, but 'tis sweet to see
Those cares and fears from which ourselves are free.

We passed the afternoon pretty chearfully, comforting ourselves with the notion of landing the next morning at Amsterdam. Signor Gargallo was so complaisant as to sing us some excellent songs, and to repeat several sonnets from the best Italian poets; among which, the following is my favourite. I give it you, with a translation attempted at sea, which you will be so good as to excuse, knowing that *Carmina secessum scribentis & otia quærunt.*

Uom che al remo é dannato, egro e dolente
Co' ceppi al piè, col dorso tronco in mano,
Nell'errante prigion chiama sovente
La libertá, benche la chiami in vano.

Ma se l'ottien, chi'l crederia! si pente
D' abbandonar gli usati ceppi, e insano
Si vende a prezzo vil: tanto é possente
Invecchiato costume in petto umano.

Cintia,

Cintia, quel folle io son: tua rotta fede
Mi scioglie, e pur di nuovo io m'imprigiono
Da me medesmo, offrendo a' lacci il piede.
Io son quel folle, anzi più folle io sono;
Perche mentre da te non ho mercede,
Non vendo, nó, la libertá; la dono.

The galley-slave condemn'd, with cries
Deplores his galling chain;
To toil consign'd, the oar he plies,
And freedom hopes in vain.

His wish obtain'd, in hapless hour
He'd fain be fetter'd still;
Freedom he sells: such is the power
Of habit o'er the will.

This folly, Cynthia, sure is mine;
Betray'd by you, I'm free:
But freedom I again resign
To be enslav'd by thee.

Nay greater frenzy fills my breast,
With lasting flames I burn;
Myself of liberty divest,
And hope for no return.

Thus we endeavoured to beguile the time till ten at night, when we all fell asleep as we

ſat in the cabin. We awoke from time to time in the night, and were highly amuſed with the mate's chearful ditties, when captain Coen, going upon deck, informed us that we were on the coaſt of North Holland. They kept ſounding all the way, and every thing ſeemed to promiſe a proſperous voyage. But about one in the morning I was awaked with a ſudden bouncing of the veſſel, repeated ſeveral times. This rouſed our whole company; and captain Coen running inſtantly upon deck, called out to us, that we had juſt ſtruck upon a ſand-bank. At this we were up in an inſtant, and could perceive a light aſhore, which captain Coen knew very well to be the light-houſe of Enkhuyſen. It ſeems that the mate had miſſed the uſual channel, and got upon the ſhoals, which are extremely dangerous. Captain Coen was in a very great paſſion with the maſter and mate, and now took upon him the direction of the veſſel. He ordered them to furl their ſails, and lie in that poſture till flood, which would be about ſix in the morning. There was no making ſignal in the night, and we had not even a boat to carry us aſhore, in caſe the veſſel, as we apprehended, ſhould be ſtaved to pieces. We were three miles from land; and what alarmed us moſt was the veſſel's being leaky, and drawing five feet water. The wind alſo was very high,

high, and the ſnow fell ſo thick, that it was impoſſible to keep upon deck. In this ſituation did we lie all night, in danger every minute of being daſhed to pieces. I began to regret, that I had not paſſed the winter in Mecklenburg, or indeed that ever I was ſo mad as to commit myſelf, at this time of year, to ſuch a boiſterous element. Repoſe and retirement now appeared to me the moſt deſirable of all things; and I could not help thinking of that fine ode of Horace, which ſo admirably deſcribes the perplexity and agitation I was in at that time.

Otium divos rogat impoſenti
Prenſus Ægeo, ſimul atra nubes
Condidit Lunam, neque certa fulgent
Sidera nautis:
Otium bello furioſa Thrace,
Otium Medi, &c.

When clouds the moon's fair luſtre hide,
No ſtars the doubtful helm to guide;
The ſailor, mid the raging ſeas,
Suppliant implores the gods for eaſe;
For eaſe, the warlike ſons of Thrace,
The Medes, whom ſhining quivers grace,
For eaſe, that never can be ſold
For gems, for purple or for gold.
For neither wealth nor power, controul
The ſickly tumults of the ſoul;

Or bid the cares to ſtand aloof,
Which hover round the vaulted roof. *

It is common for mankind to wiſh for repoſe and retirement, even when they are engaged in the moſt active and moſt ambitious purſuits. This, however, was not my caſe; and the danger and diſtreſs I was then in, could by no means be aſcribed to an ambitious motive. I blamed my conduct notwithſtanding, for expoſing myſelf to danger and diſtreſs without any neceſſity. Thus the remainder of the night was ſpent in melancholy reflections, till ſix o'clock, when we were in hopes of getting off at high water. But our hopes were vain; we were fixed; and the tide beginning to ebb, captain Coen declared, that the veſſel had ſo buried itſelf in the ſand, that, in his opinion, it could not be got off. It was now day-break, when he ordered a ſignal of diſtreſs, which was hoiſting up a black crape or colours on the top of the maſt. The wind grew ſtronger every moment, and was withal ſo piercingly cold, that we were almoſt frozen to death. In this ſcene of diſtreſs we ſaw a large boat coming towards us, which proved to be a fiſhing-veſſel, ſent to our aſſiſtance. Captain Coen propoſed we

* Francis's Horace, book ii. od. 16.

ſhould hire the boat to carry us to Horn in North Holland, and from thence travel by land to Amſterdam. As ſoon as we had agreed, the Harlingen ſkipper demanded his freight as coolly and unconcernedly as if nothing had happened. Captain Coen told him, that both he and his mate deſerved to be hanged for their negligence: however, it was no time to diſpute; we paid him, and got into the boat with all expedition. By the way, I muſt take notice, that the fiſherman extorted moſt enormouſly, aſking forty gilders, which we paid, for engaging to carry us nine or ten miles. But this was a matter of no conſideration with us at that time; if it had been 100 gilders, we ſhould not have objected, and I only mention it as a proof of the common depravity of mankind, in taking advantage of the diſtreſſes of their fellow-creatures. The maſter and mate ſtaid on board in hopes of getting off the next tide: we heard afterwards that the veſſel was loſt; but, it being in the day, the mens lives were ſaved.

We were now in an open boat, the ſnow greatly abated, but the wind very high, and the froſt ſuch that our limbs began to grow ſenſibly affected. In this great diſtreſs had we ſailed about half an hour, when we fell in with a Dutch ſhip, bound for Amſterdam. We made a ſignal, which the people

ple on board perceiving, were so humane as to lie by; and in a little while we had the good fortune to come up with them. To add to our joy, captain Coen happened to know the commander of the ship, whose name was Van Dalen; and his vessel was come from Surinam, laden with coffee, sugar, and cotton. This was a most lucky incident. We were received on board with great tenderness, accommodated with a warm cabbin, and regaled with refreshments of all sorts. This very ship had lain by in the night to avoid the banks on which our vessel was stranded. There are many such shoals and banks on that coast, which makes the navigation of the Zuyder-sea very dangerous. The wind being pretty fair we advanced at a good rate, and had sight of Edam and Monnikendam in North Holland. We soon reached the Pampus, a shallow part of the Zuyder-sea before you come to Amsterdam, and in which there is not above ten feet water. They have a sea-mark to know when they come upon it, and another when they reach its extremity. After we had got over the Pampus, we had twenty feet water, and saw the province of Overmel on our left. This was soon succeeded by a most pleasing view of the stately city of Amsterdam. The harbour was full of ships, which appeared like a forest, and the city lying

ing in the form of an amphitheatre, afforded a proſpect, noble and magnificent beyond conception. It would, indeed, be one of the fineſt in the whole world, had Amſterdam a greater number of lofty ſpires; but it is decorated with no more than four ſteeples, on account of the ground, which being all a moraſs, obliges the inhabitants to build upon piles. We landed happily about four o'clock; and the reſt of the company having their friends to go to, captain Coen inſiſted on my lodging with him, at his mother-in-law's. The company ſeparated, and the captain and I went to Mrs. Meyer's, whoſe houſe is pleaſantly ſituated near the harbour. Here we had every comfort that could be deſired after ſo fatiguing and perilous a voyage. An excellent ſupper was provided, and we had the ſatisfaction to think, that after all our hardſhips and ſufferings, we were reſerved by Providence to ſpend an agreeable Chriſtmas at Amſterdam. Thus is life nothing more than a continual ſcene of viciſſitudes; and even thoſe who ſeem to be in the eaſieſt and happieſt ſtations, have their variations of pleaſure and anxiety.

New turns and changes every day
Are of inconſtant chance the conſtant arts.
Good unexpected, evil unforeſeen,
Appear by turns, as fortune ſhifts the ſcene.

My

My good friend Captain Cowper set off the 28th for Delft, being impatient to see his wife and children. He wanted me to bear him company, but I have been so harraſſed and fatigued in my late voyage, that I am determined to ſtay and amuſe myſelf a few days longer in this city. I ſhall then depart for Delft, whence I intend to make the beſt of my way for Helvoetſluys, and then for dear England. I have been in company twice, ſince my arrival in this city, with my friends ſignor Gargallo and captain Ottes; and now the danger is over, we have laughed over our fears and apprehenſions on the Zuyder-ſea. This verifies the obſervation of Taſſo, which I mentioned to you in my firſt letter, that after a ſea-voyage the pleaſure of ſafe landing makes one forget

La noja e'l mal de la paſſata via.

As for an account of my paſſage through Holland, with the obſervations I may chance to make in this great city, you muſt have patience till I have the pleaſure of ſeeing you in London, when I propoſe entertaining you with this topic, in our winter evenings converſations. I conclude at preſent with aſſuring you, that one of the greateſt pleaſures I have enjoyed, during my abſence from England, has been that of endeavouring, by the utmoſt diligence

diligence of enquiry, to satisfy your curiosity; flattering myself that you will be so good as to consider this as a proof of my readiness to obey your commands, and of the sincere affection with which I shall ever remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

DIRECTIONS to the Binder for placing the CUTS.

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ERRATA.

VOL. I. page 126, line 1, *for* Merrius *read* Mævius. p. 201, l. 5, from the bottom, *for* 1374 *read* 1314. p. 269, l. 9, *for* ſince *read* during.

VOL. II. page 45, l. 4, *for* the principal cauſe *read* one of the chief cauſes. p. 117, l. penulti. *for* 1000,000 *read* 100,000. p, 345, l. 8, *for* Royal *read* Serene. p. 344, l. 8, *for* bed; adieu *read* bid adieu.